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PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



IN THIS ISSUE: ONE OF THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN'S DEADLIEST
FOES...IS ABOUT TO BECOME EVEN DEADLIER!!!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE HATRED OF THE HOBGOBLIN!

TONIGHT IS
THE NIGHT! SOON
ALL THE POWER
POSSESSED BY
THE ORIGINAL
GREEN GOBLIN...

...ALL THAT--
AND MORE--

--SHALL
BELONG TO...
HOBGOBLIN!

SOMEWHERE, SOMEPLACE
COMPUTERS CHANNEL
CHEMICAL CURRENTS
INSIDE A HUGE VAT.
SOMEWHERE, SOMEPLACE...

...EVIL IS
A BORNING!

BILL MANTLO / AL MILGROM & JIM MOONEY / D. ALBERS, LETTERER / TOM DE FALCO & DANNY FINGEROTH / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER ARTISTS B. SHAREN, COLORIST EDITORS CHIEF
WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR INDEBTEDNESS TO HOBGOBLIN'S CREATOR,
ROGER STERN, FOR HIS GRACIOUS PLOT ASSIST.

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WE DO NOT KNOW HIS NAME. WE HAVE NEVER SEEN HIS FACE. HE IS A CIPHER SEETHING WITH MENACE AND MYSTERY.

NORMAN OSBORN—THE GREEN GOBLIN—WAS INSANE... BUT METHODICAL IN HIS MADNESS.



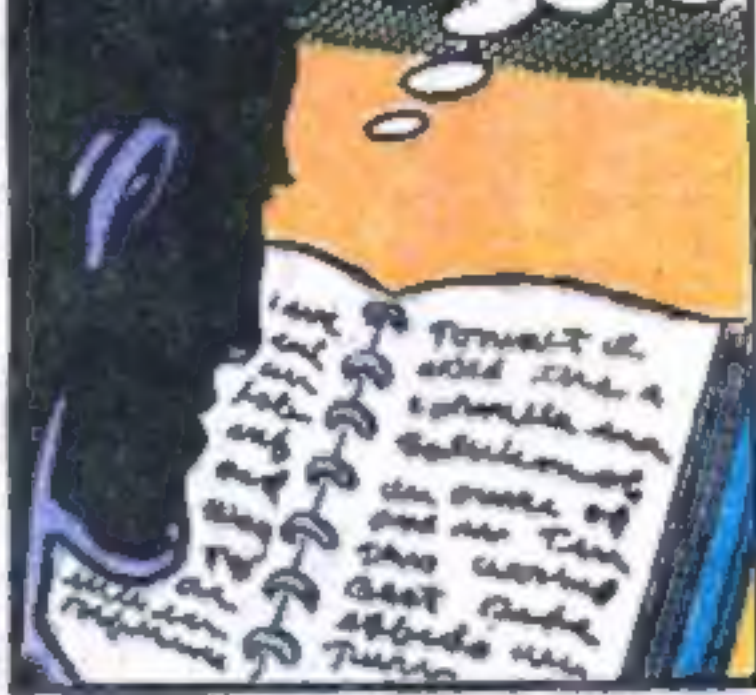
HE RECORDED EVERY ASPECT OF HIS CRIMINAL CAREER. HIS JOURNAL ENTRIES ARE EXHAUSTIVE.

FORTUNATELY FOR ME, HIS JOURNALS SURVIVED HIS DEATH.



FROM THEM, I HAVE LEARNED HOW TO DUPLICATE THE THINGS THAT MADE THE GREEN GOBLIN A FORCE TO BE FEARED...

...HIS HIDDEN HIDEOUTS, THE DEADLY WEAPONRY IN HIS BAG O' TRICKS, HIS GOBLIN-GLIDERS—



--AND NOW... TONIGHT... THE SECRET SOURCE OF HIS SUPER-STRENGTH!

THE JOURNALS SUGGESTED HOW DANGEROUS THE PROCESS COULD BE...



...AND HOW FOOLISH I WOULD BE TO TEST IT ON MYSELF FIRST.



SO I FOUND A GUINEA PIG IN LEFTY DONOVAN, A SE. COND-RATE CRIMINAL IN MY EMPLOY. UNDER HYPNOSIS, DONOVAN SYNTHESIZED THE GOBLIN'S FORMULA...



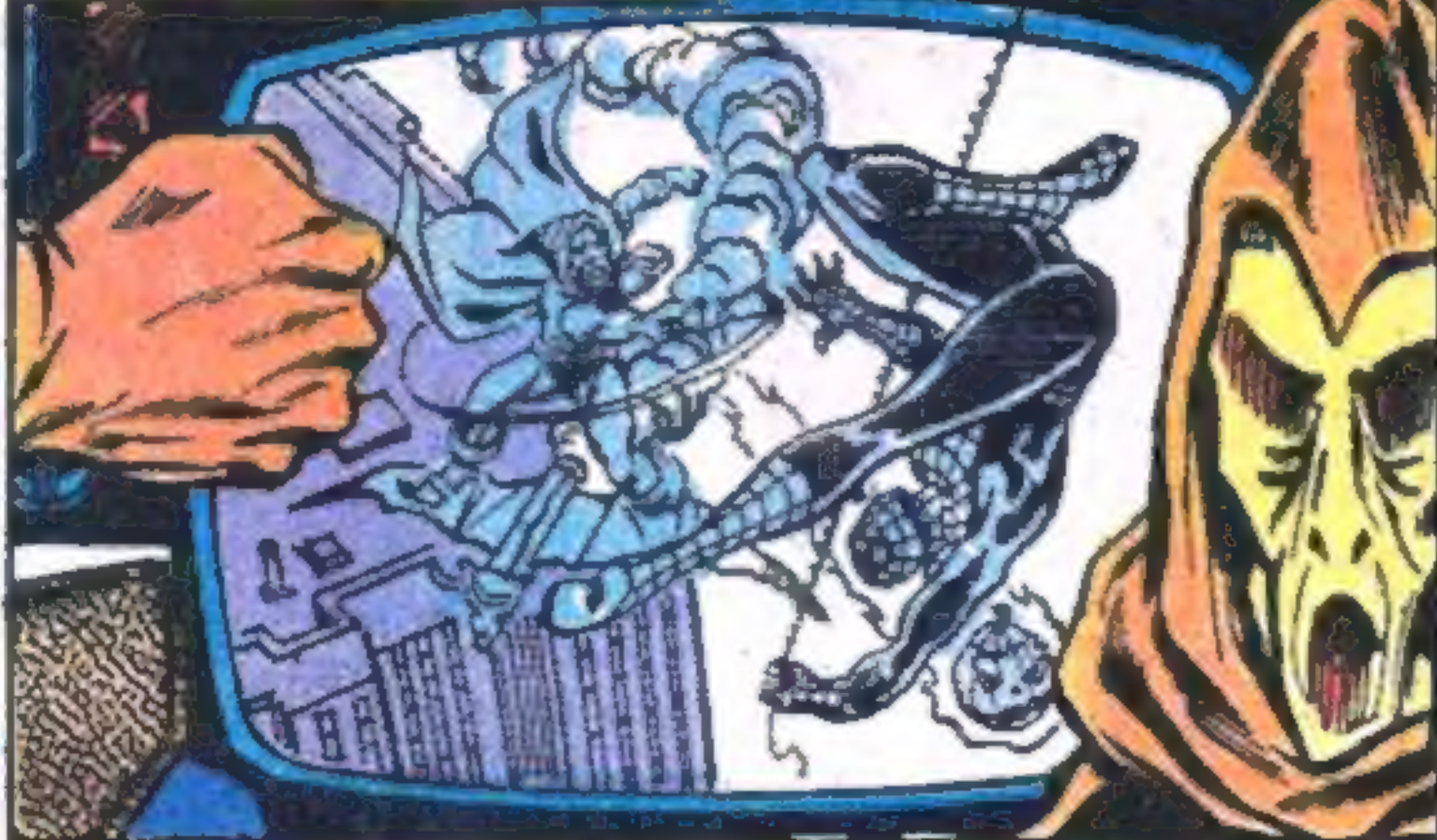
--WITH RATHER EXPLOSIVE RESULTS.

DONOVAN'S EVERY PORE BECAME PERMEATED WITH THE POWERFUL POTION.

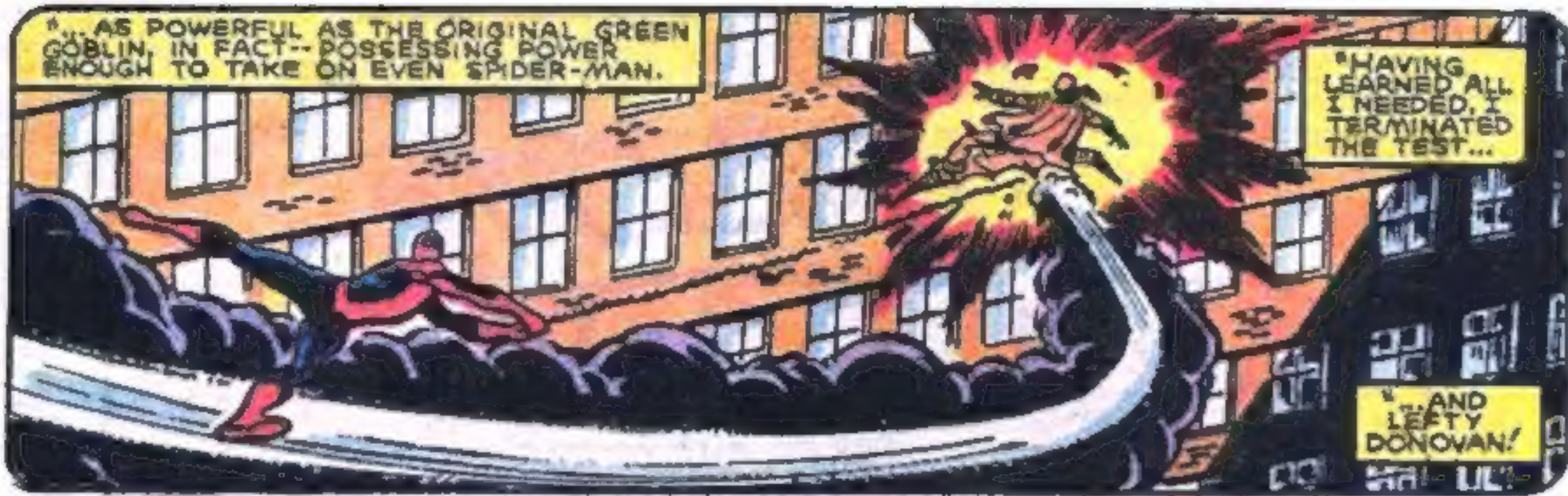


HE WAS RECUPERATING AT AN INCREDIBLE RATE AS THE CHEMICALS HE'D ABSORBED ENERGIZED EVERY CELL IN HIS BODY!

FINALLY, DONOVAN REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AND, FOLLOWING MY POST-HYPNOTIC COMMAND, ROSE, DRESSED HIMSELF IN A SPARE HOBGOBLIN COSTUME...



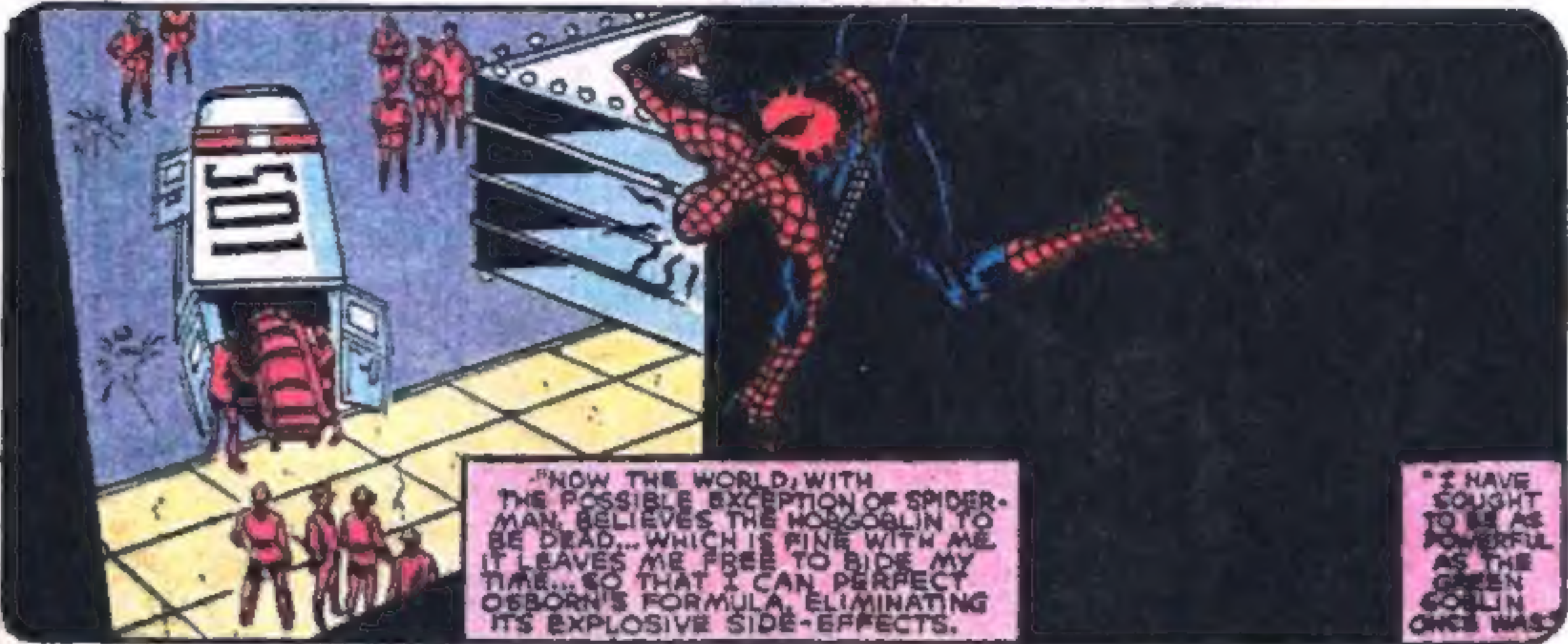
...AND CHALLENGED THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN TO BATTLE. I OBSERVED ALL, OBSERVING ESPECIALLY HOW POWERFUL DONOVAN HAD BECOME...



"...AS POWERFUL AS THE ORIGINAL GREEN GOBLIN, IN FACT--POSSESSING POWER ENOUGH TO TAKE ON EVEN SPIDER-MAN.

"HAVING LEARNED ALL I NEEDED, I TERMINATED THE TEST...

"AND LEFTY DONOVAN!



"NOW THE WORLD, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF SPIDER-MAN, BELIEVES THE HOBGOBLIN TO BE DEAD... WHICH IS FINE WITH ME. IT LEAVES ME FREE TO BIDE MY TIME... SO THAT I CAN PERFECT OSBORN'S FORMULA, ELIMINATING ITS EXPLOSIVE SIDE-EFFECTS.

"I HAVE SOUGHT TO BE AS POWERFUL AS THE GREEN GOBLIN ONCE WAS.

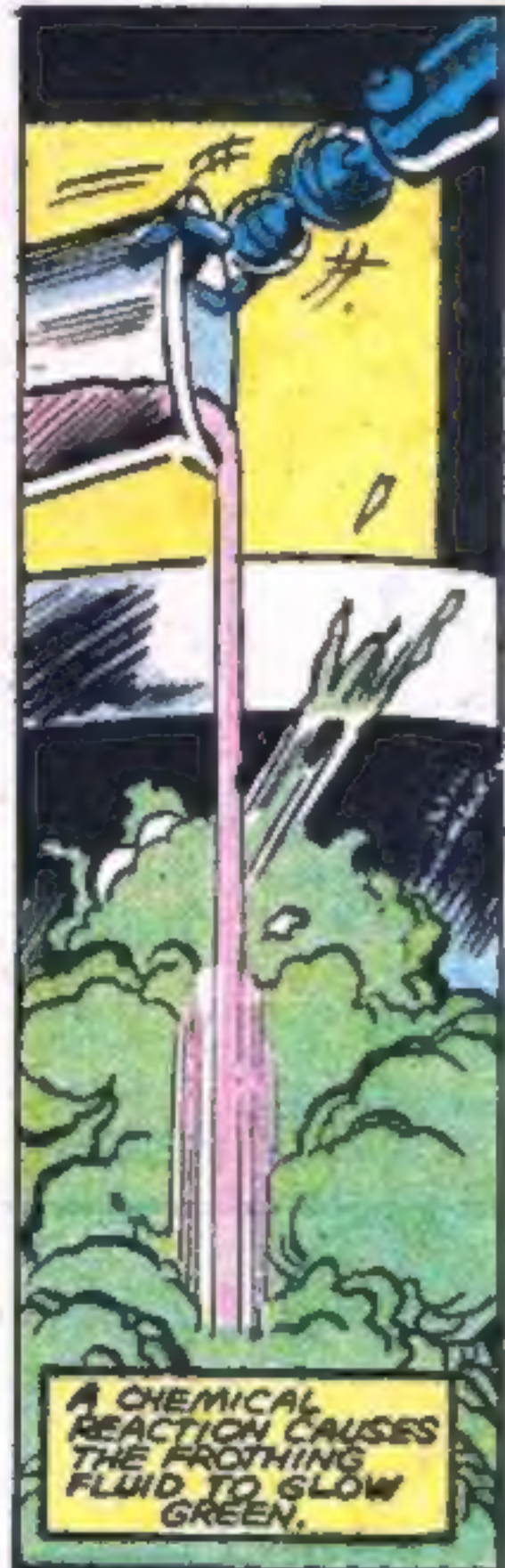


TONIGHT I SHALL ACHIEVE THAT END.

AT THE CLICK OF A BUTTON...



...WALDOES--MECHANICAL ARMS--EXTEND INTO THE SEETHING VAT AND PREPARE TO ADD THE FINAL INGREDIENT.



A CHEMICAL REACTION CAUSES THE FROTHING FLUID TO GLOW GREEN.



IT IS TIME I SHALL PASS THROUGH THIS MEMBRANE...

AND MY LIFE WILL BE CHANGED FOREVER!



Caution:
The potential exists for even a greater power-- a conclusion perhaps equal to that prolonged immersion in that possessed by the fluid can Spider-Man--but a cause possible continued experi-- a psychological mentation has a side effects, led me to a leading even to madness.

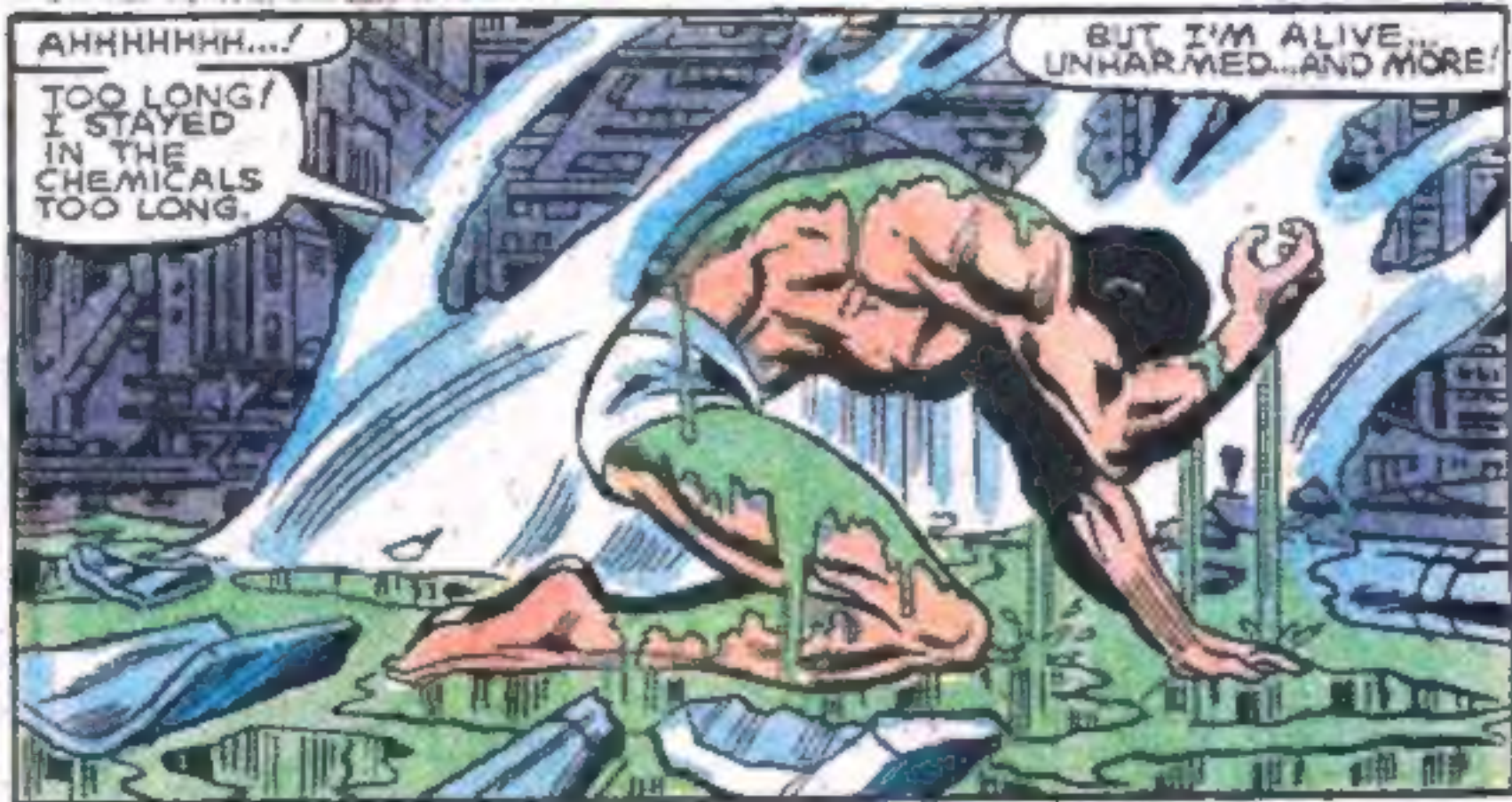
MINUTES PASS...

PERHAPS TOO MANY MINUTES...



BUHWHRR

BOOM!



AHHHHHH...!
TOO LONG!
I STAYED
IN THE
CHEMICALS
TOO LONG.

BUT I'M ALIVE...
UNHARMED...AND MORE!



I CAN FEEL MY BODY
BURSTING WITH
MORE SHEER **POWER**
THAN I COULD EVER
HAVE CONCEIVED OF!



I'VE DONE IT!
I'VE BECOME
AS POWERFUL
AS THE ORIGINAL
GREEN GOBLIN!



MAYBE EVEN
MORE POWERFUL!



BUT THE
ONLY WAY TO
TEST THAT
THEORY IS TO
DEFEAT THE
ONE FOE THE
GOBLIN COULD
NEVER DEFEAT
HIMSELF!

THUS, TONIGHT...
THE **MOBGOBLIN**
WILL DESTROY
SPIDER-MAN!

EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON
AT CENTRAL PARK'S
TAVERN-ON-THE-GREEN,
ONE OF NEW YORK'S
SWANKIEST LUNCH SPOTS...

WHEW! THE
CLOSEST I'VE
EVER COME TO
DINING HERE IS
WHEN I ATE A
SANDWICH ON
A NEARBY PARK
BENCH.

BUT HARRY OSBORN SAID HE AND LIZ HAD
AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE...
AND THAT LUNCH WAS HIS TREAT.

SO WHO WAS MAY
PARKER'S NEPHEW
PETER TO SAY NO TO
A FREE FEED?

ARRIVING JUST A FEW
MINUTES LATE...

PETER PARKER DISCOVERS THAT THE REST OF
HIS PARTY HAS YET TO PROCEED PAST THE
COCKTAIL STAGE.

HEY, PETE!
YOU MADE IT!

HARRY, OLD BUDDY, THE PRO-
VERBIAL WILD HORSES COULDN'T
KEEP ME AWAY FROM SEEING YOU AND
THE OLD GANG AGAIN!

I'M SO GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY,
PETER. WE'VE ALL KNOWN EACH OTHER
SO LONG, BEEN THROUGH SO MANY
CHANGES TOGETHER.

MAYBE
THAT'S WHAT
KEEPS US
ALL
TOGETHER,
LIZ.

WHY, THAT'S
EXACTLY HOW
LIZ AND I
FELT, PETE--

WHAT IS
THE VERY
REASON
FOR THIS
LUNCHEON,
LIZ?

OH, I CAN'T
TELL YOU,
BETTY--
NOT YET.

NOT 'TIL
WE'RE
ALL
HERE!

LOOK AT HARRY AND LIZ, SO HAPPY
TOGETHER DESPITE ALL THEY'VE BEEN
THROUGH. LIZ'S STEP-BROTHER WAS
THE MOLTEN MAN--

--AND HARRY'S DAD
WAS THE ORIGINAL
GREEN GOBLIN?

--THOUGH A LATER TRAUMA
MERCIFULLY WIPED THAT FACT FROM HIS MIND.

6
--WHICH IS
THE VERY
REASON
FOR THIS
LUNCHEON!

LISTEN! I LIKE PARTIES AS MUCH AS ANYONE, BUT NED AND I ARE NINE-TO-FIVERS! WE'VE GOT JOBS TO GET BACK TO!

SO IF YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS HAVE A SECRET TO SHARE WITH THE REST OF US--



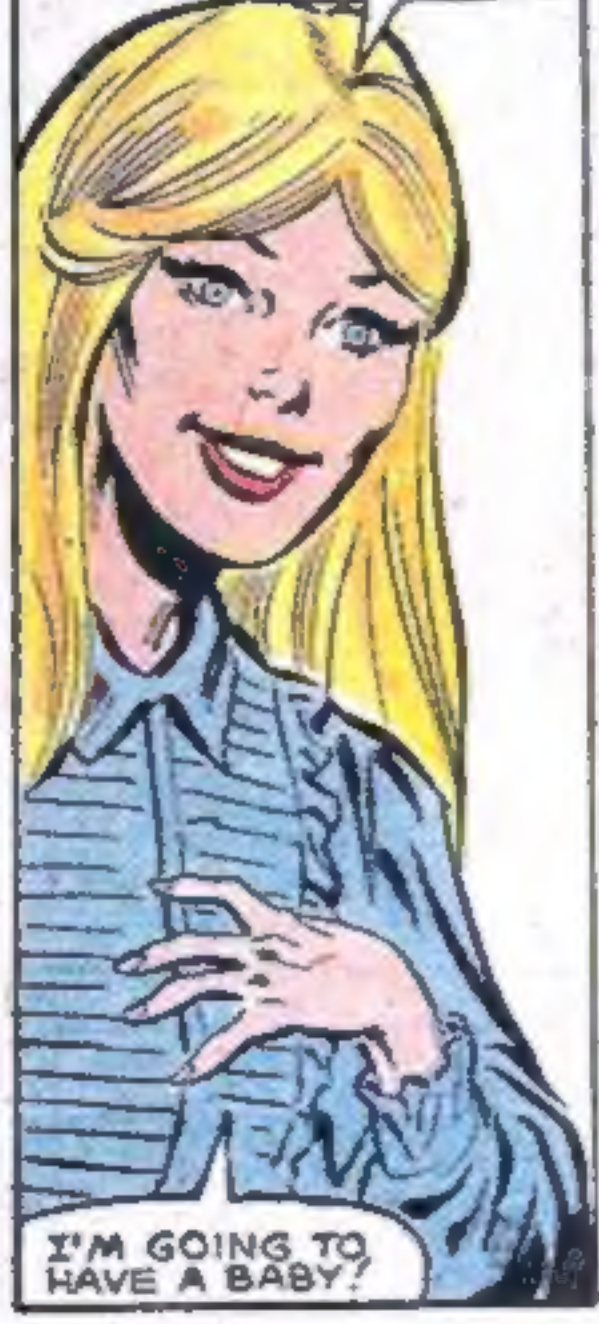
--I FOR ONE AM POSITIVELY BURSTING TO HEAR IT!

AT BETTY BRANT'S FRIENDLY URGING, A BLUSH SUFFUSES LIZ OSBORN'S CHEEKS.



WELL, THE ONLY ONE MISSING IS MARY JANE WATSON. WE WERE WAITING FOR HER...

BUT I CAN'T KEEP THE NEWS IN ANY LONGER! HARRY AND I ARE GOING TO BE A MOMMY!



I'M GOING TO HAVE A BABY!

YIPEEEE! I LOVE BABIES!



OTHER PEOPLE'S, OF COURSE.

OH, MARY JANE! YOU DID COME! I... WE WEREN'T SURE--!

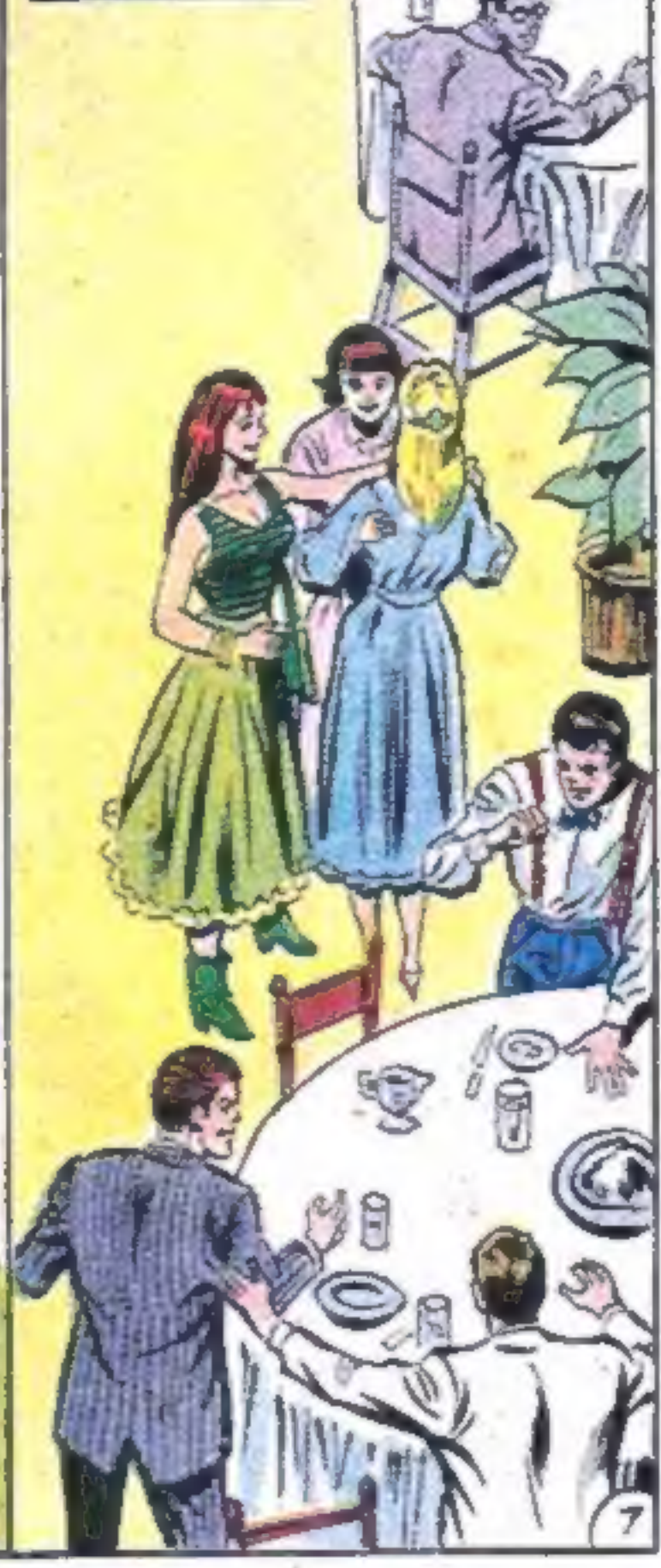
THAT WAS SILLY, LIZ! JUST BECAUSE I'M FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY-FANCY DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T CARE FOR MY FRIENDS!

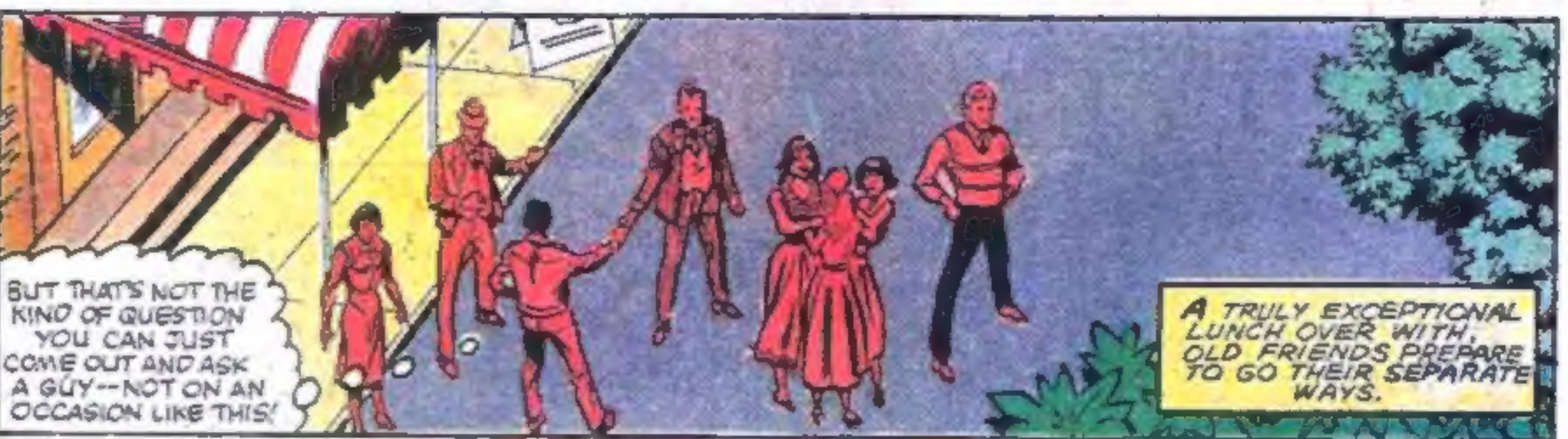
I LOVE YOU AND HARRY--AND I'M GOING TO LOVE YOUR BABY!



THERE ARE TEARS, THEN, OF JOY...

... AND CONGRATULATIONS ALL AROUND.







...UNDECIPHER-
ABLE.

YOU LOOK
PUZZLED,
TIGER?

TELL ME
ABOUT IT,
MARY
JANE!

OKAY, I
WILL
FLASH
AND SHA
SHAN HAVE
PROBLEMS



--AND YOU'RE
TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT
WHAT THEY
ARE SO YOU
CAN SOLVE
THEM FOR
THEM?

YOU READ ME LIKE
A BOOK, M.J.



I'VE HAD PRACTICE!
YOU ALWAYS DID
WANT TO BE THE
"WHITE KNIGHT TO
THE RESCUE." I
THINK THAT'S WHAT
I LIKED ABOUT
YOU?

BUT NOT ENOUGH
TO MARRY ME?

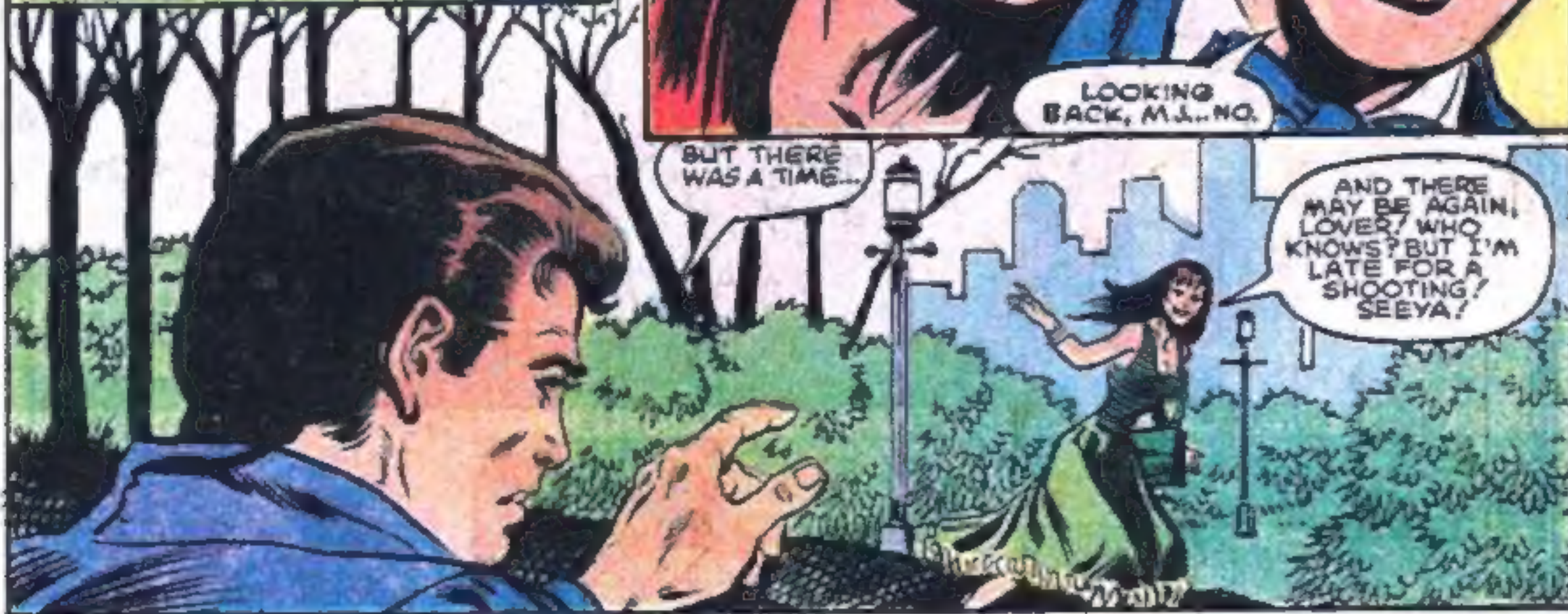


OH, DON'T GET
HEAVY, TIGER!
BESIDES, WITH
THE BENEFIT
OF HINDSIGHT--

--CAN YOU
REALLY
IMAGINE THE
TWO OF US
TOGETHER?

LOOKING
BACK, M.J.--NO.

BUT THERE
WAS A TIME...



AND THERE
MAY BE AGAIN,
LOVER? WHO
KNOWS? BUT I'M
LATE FOR A
SHOOTING!
SEEYA!



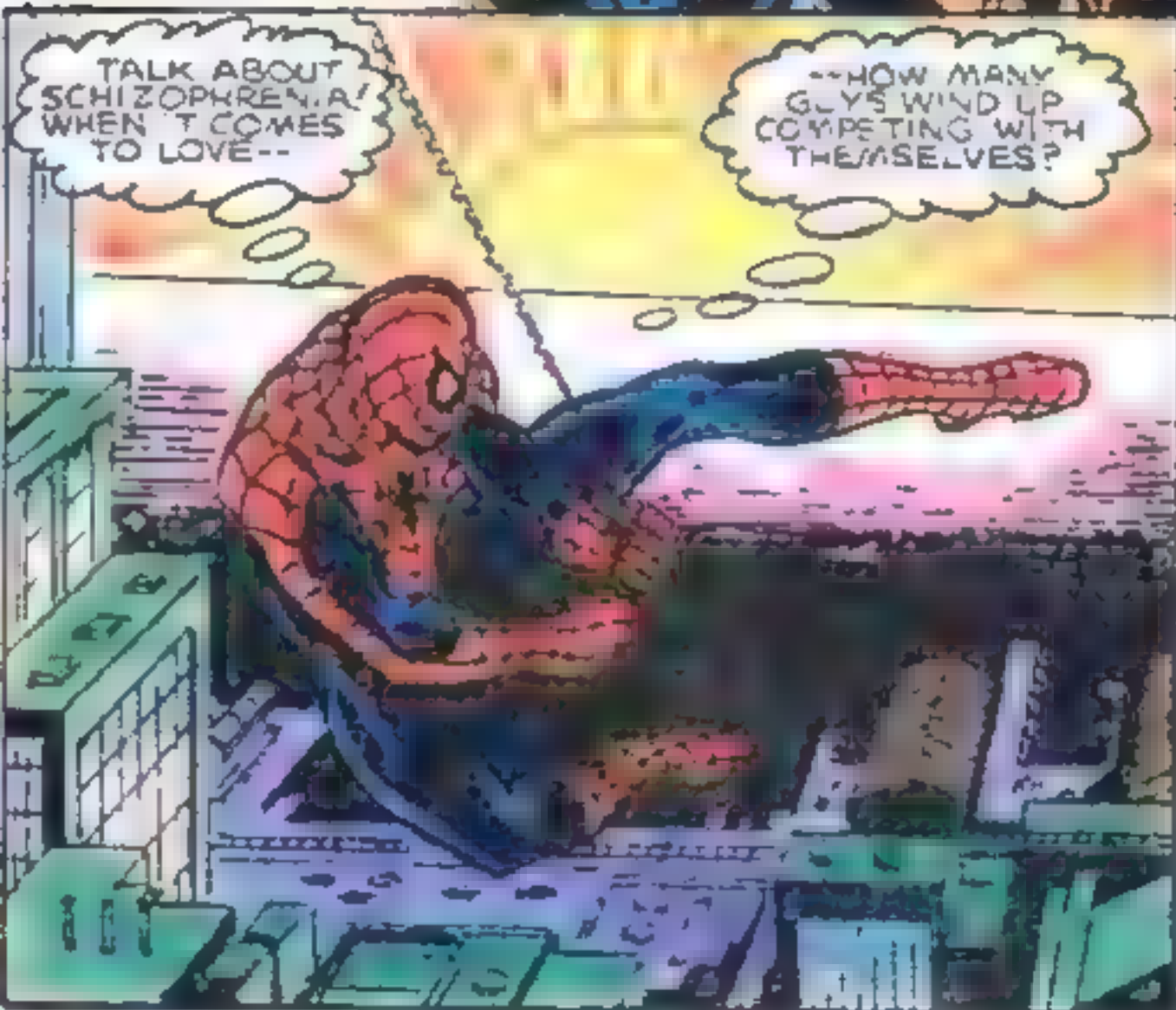
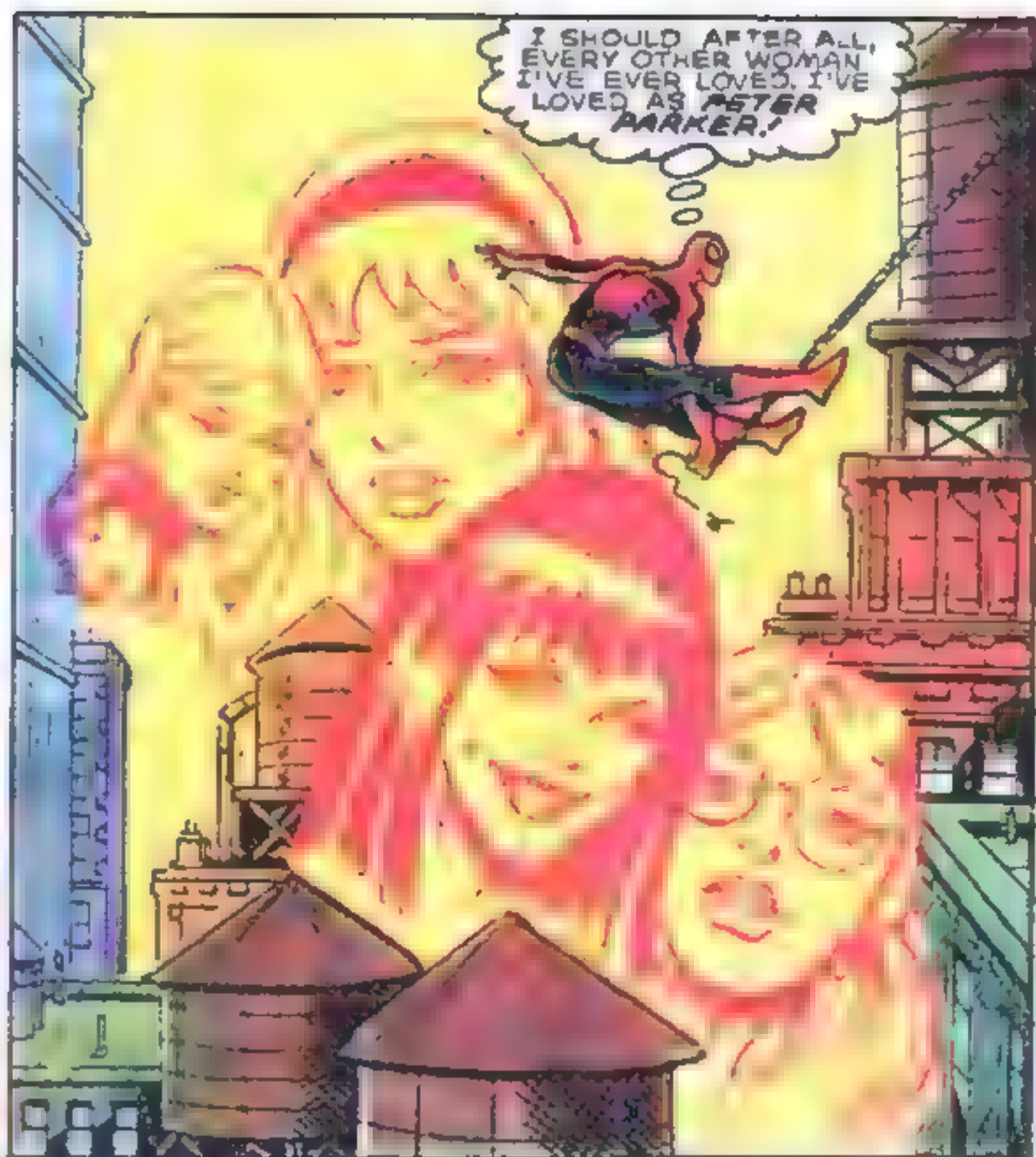
WHAT'D M.J. MEAN
BY THAT LAST
REMARK? DOES
SHE STILL LOVE
ME?

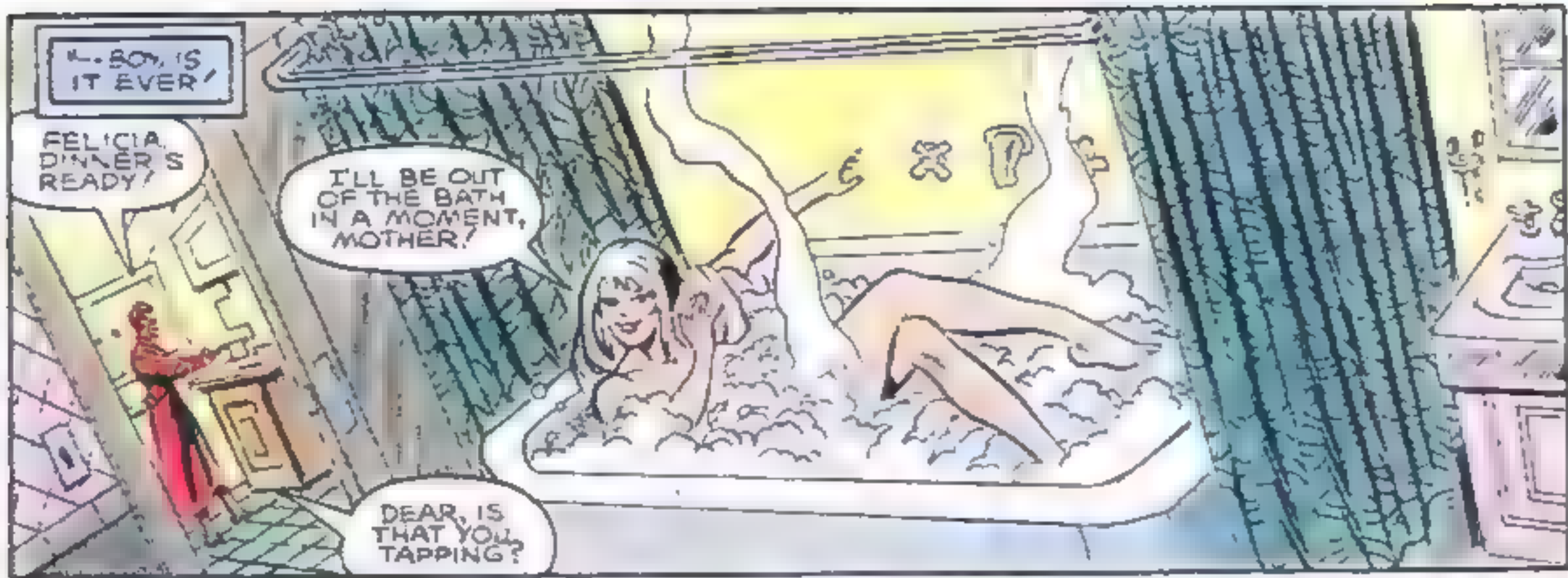
IF SHE DOES,
WHAT WOULD
I DO IF...?

WHOA,
PARKER!
THAT
WAY LIES
MADNESS!



AND I'VE GOT MY CURRENT
LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE
BLACK CAT TO THINK
ABOUT!





L. BOY, IS
IT EVER!

FELICIA,
DINNER'S
READY!

I'LL BE OUT
OF THE BATH
IN A MOMENT,
MOTHER!

DEAR, IS
THAT YOU
TAPPING?

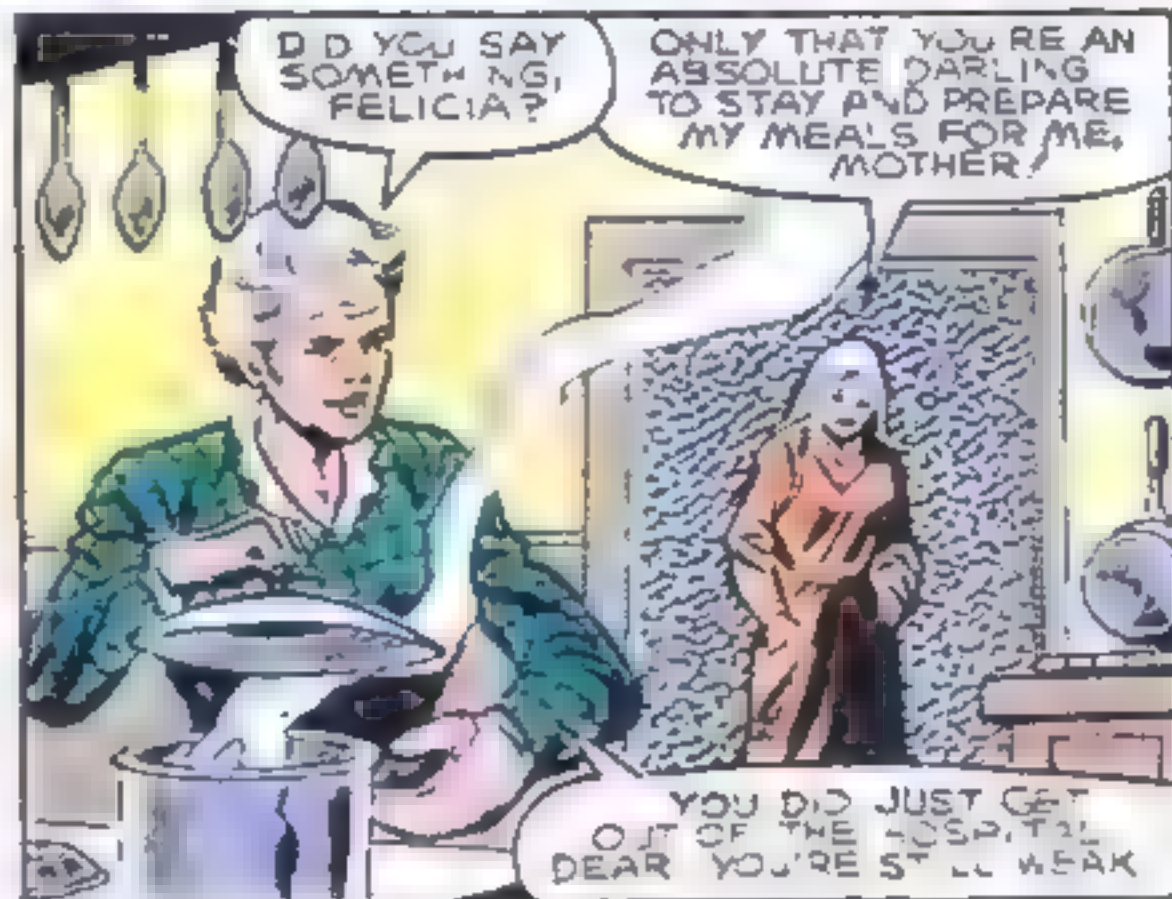


TAPPING?
OH!

TAP
TAP
TAP



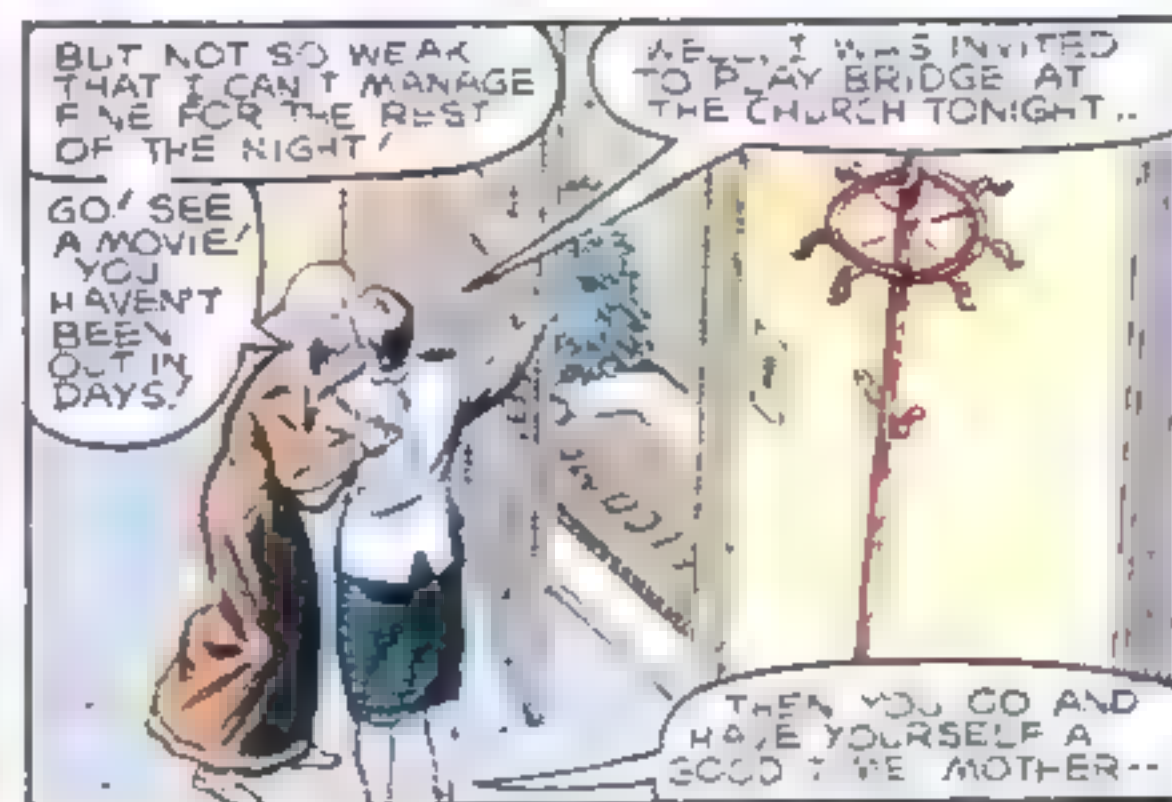
SHHH! FIVE
MINUTES!



DID YOU SAY
SOMETHING,
FELICIA?

ONLY THAT YOU'RE AN
ABSOLUTE DARLING
TO STAY AND PREPARE
MY MEALS FOR ME,
MOTHER!

YOU DID JUST GET
OUT OF THE HOSPITAL,
DEAR. YOU'RE STILL WEAK.

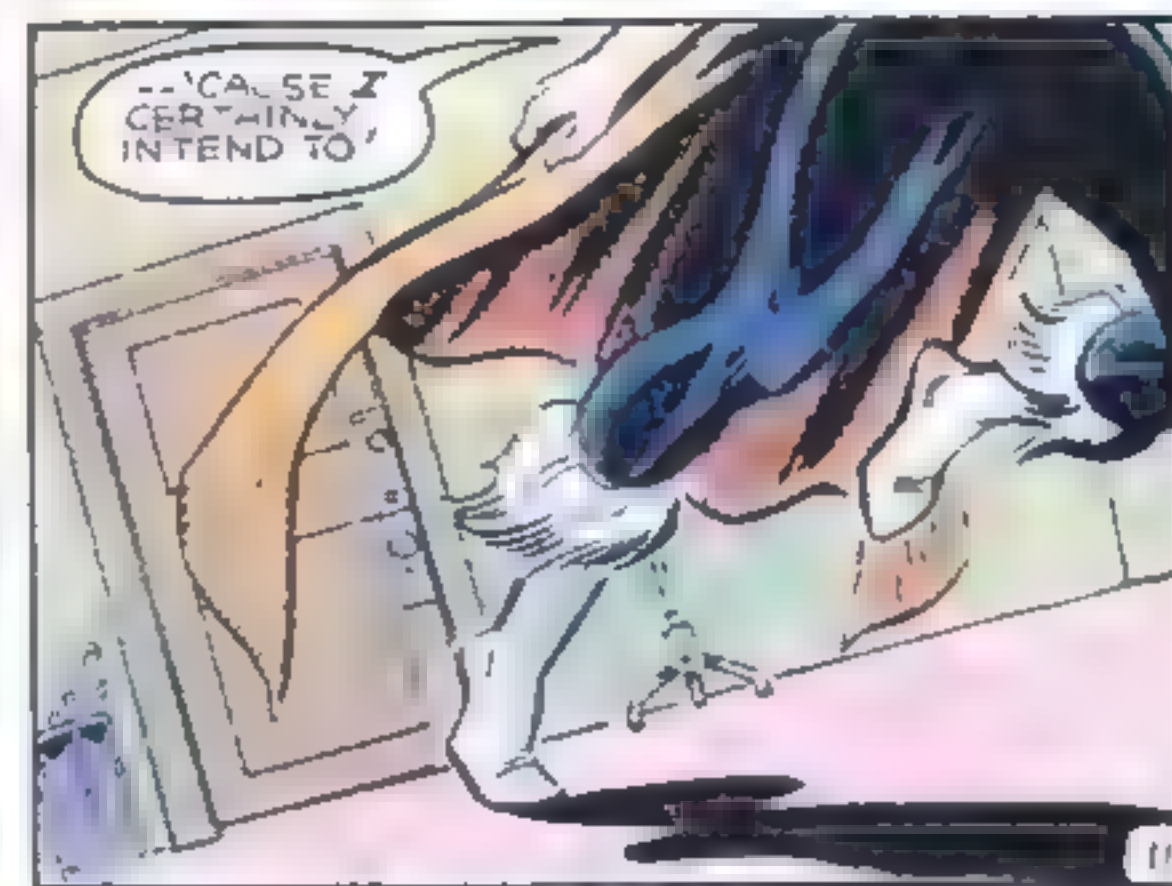


BUT NOT SO WEAK
THAT I CAN'T MANAGE
FIVE FOR THE REST
OF THE NIGHT!

WELL, I WAS INVITED
TO PLAY BRIDGE AT
THE CHURCH TONIGHT..

GO! SEE
A MOVIE!
YOU
HAVEN'T
BEEN
OUT IN
DAYS!

THEN YOU GO AND
HAVE YOURSELF A
GOOD TIME MOTHER..

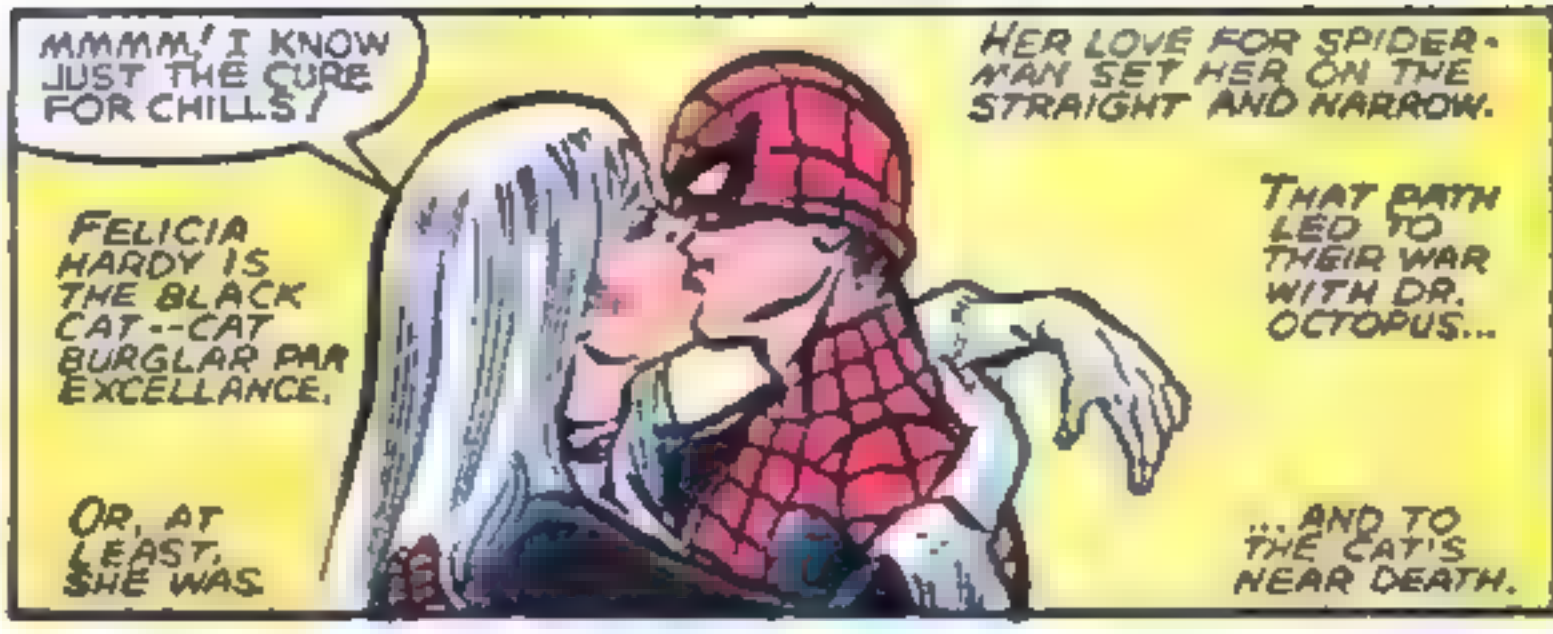


--'CAUSE I
CERTAINLY
INTEND TO!



HOPE YOU DIDN'T CATCH ANYTHING COMMUNICABLE PERCHED OUT THERE WITH THE PIGEONS, LOVER!

WELL, MAYBE A BIT OF A CHILL, CAT!



MMMM! I KNOW JUST THE CURE FOR CHILLS!

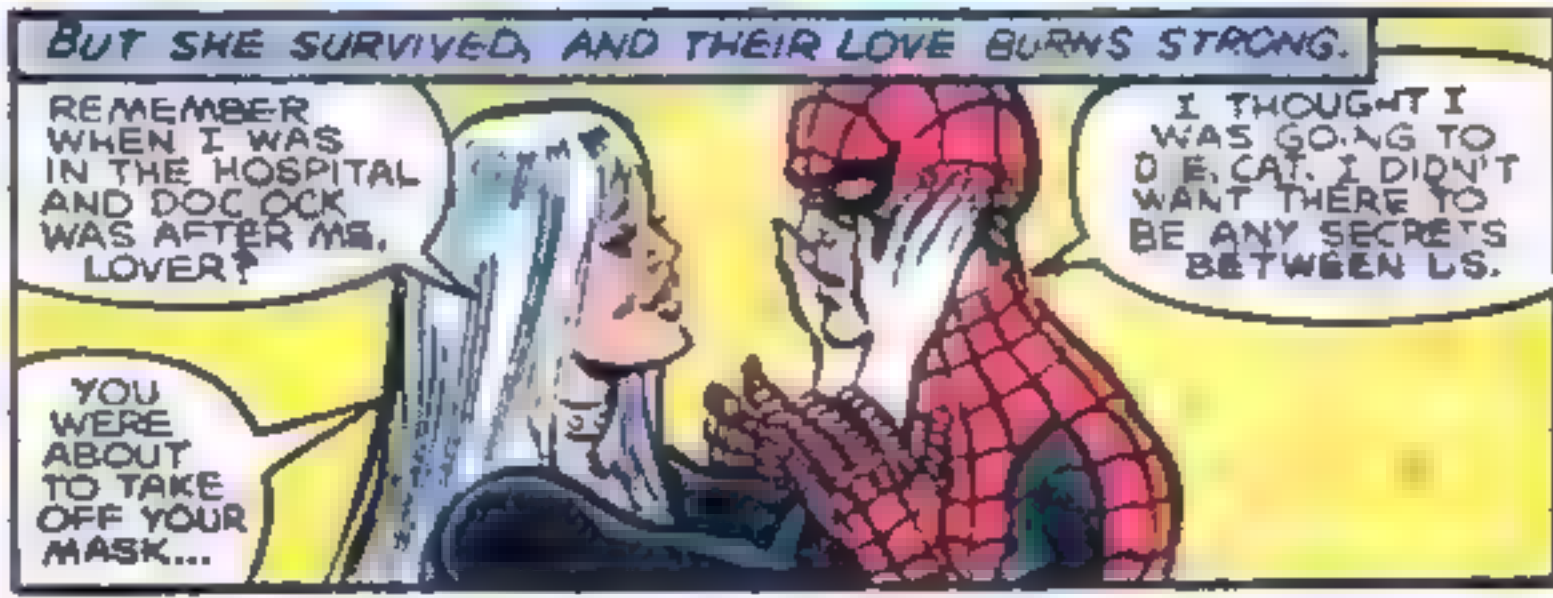
HER LOVE FOR SPIDER-MAN SET HER ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.

FELICIA HARDY IS THE BLACK CAT--CAT BURGLAR PAR EXCELLANCE.

THAT PATH LED TO THEIR WAR WITH DR. OCTOPUS...

OR, AT LEAST, SHE WAS

...AND TO THE CAT'S NEAR DEATH.

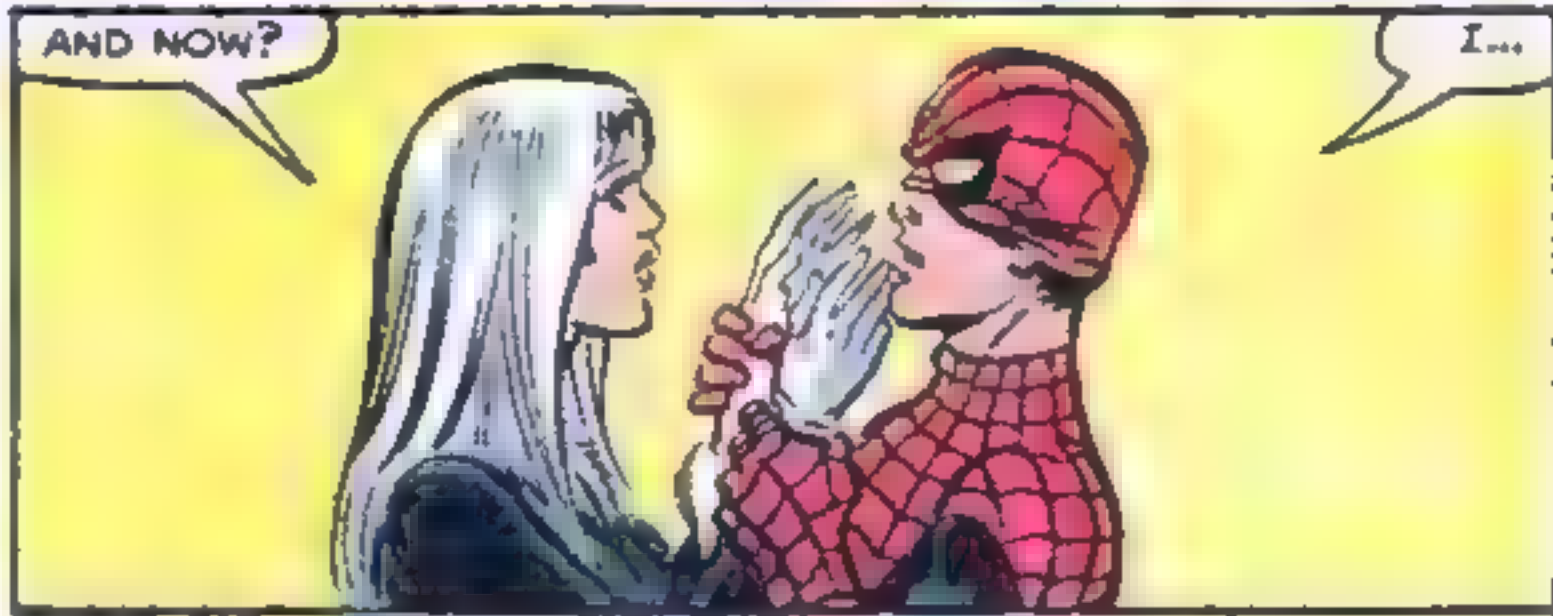


BUT SHE SURVIVED, AND THEIR LOVE BURNS STRONG.

REMEMBER WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL AND DOC OCK WAS AFTER ME, LOVER?

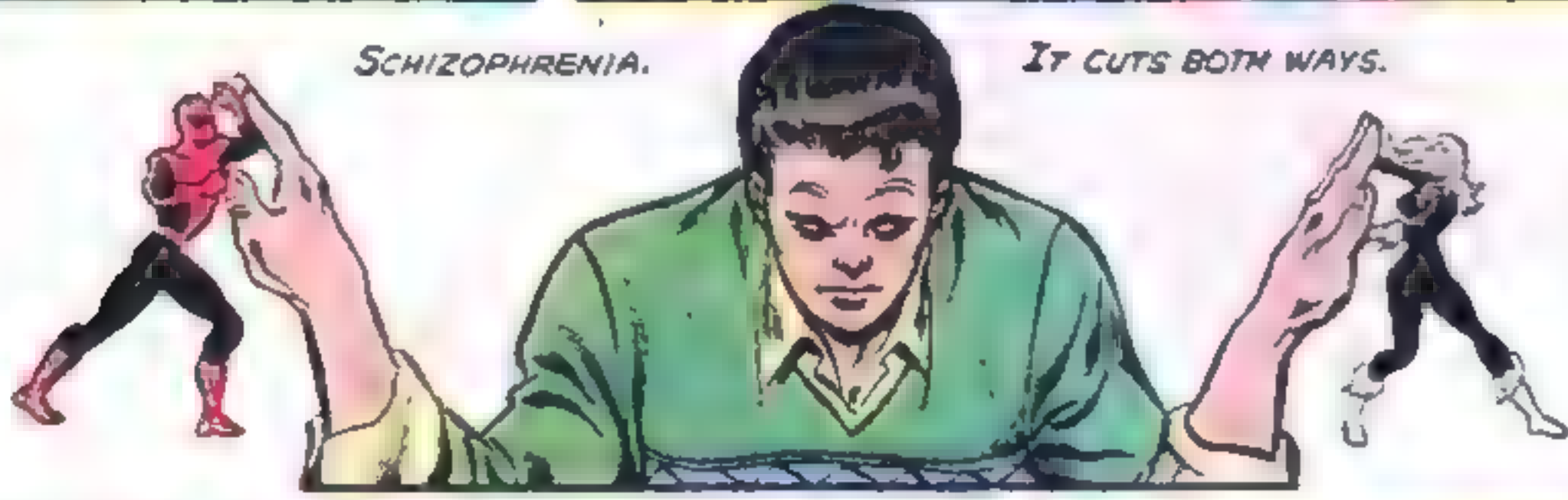
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE, CAT. I DIDN'T WANT THERE TO BE ANY SECRETS BETWEEN US.

YOU WERE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF YOUR MASK...



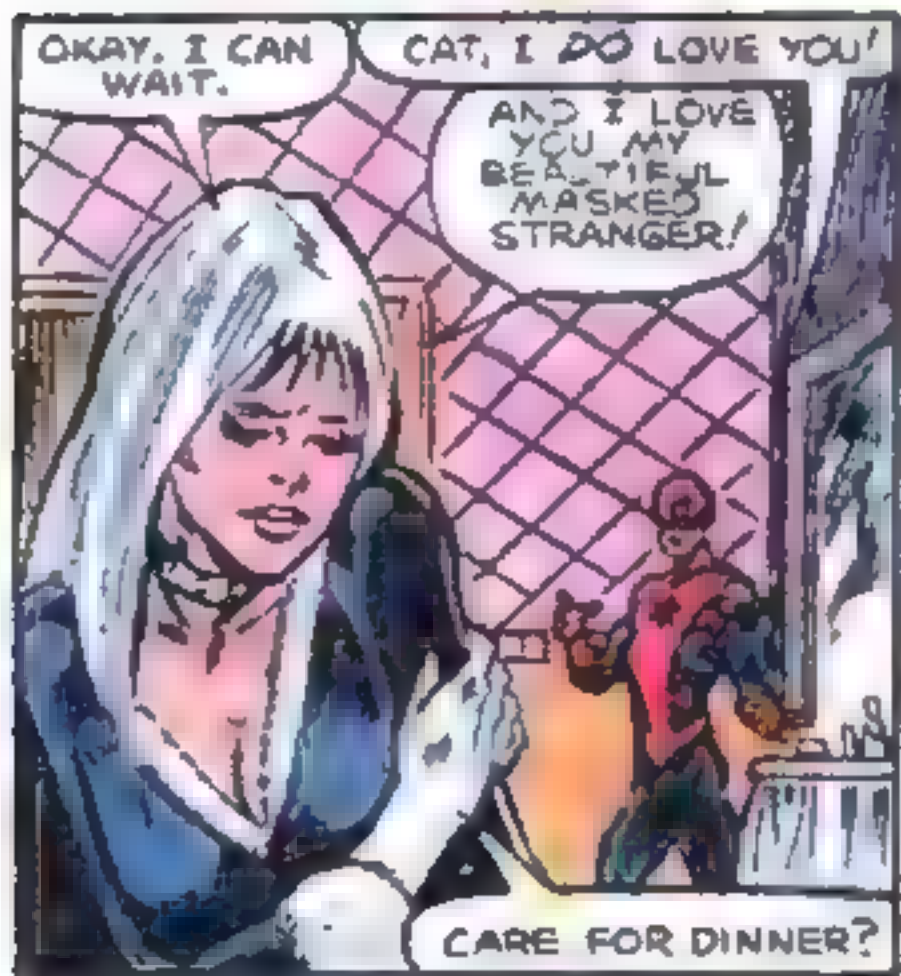
AND NOW?

I...



SCHIZOPHRENIA.

IT CUTS BOTH WAYS.

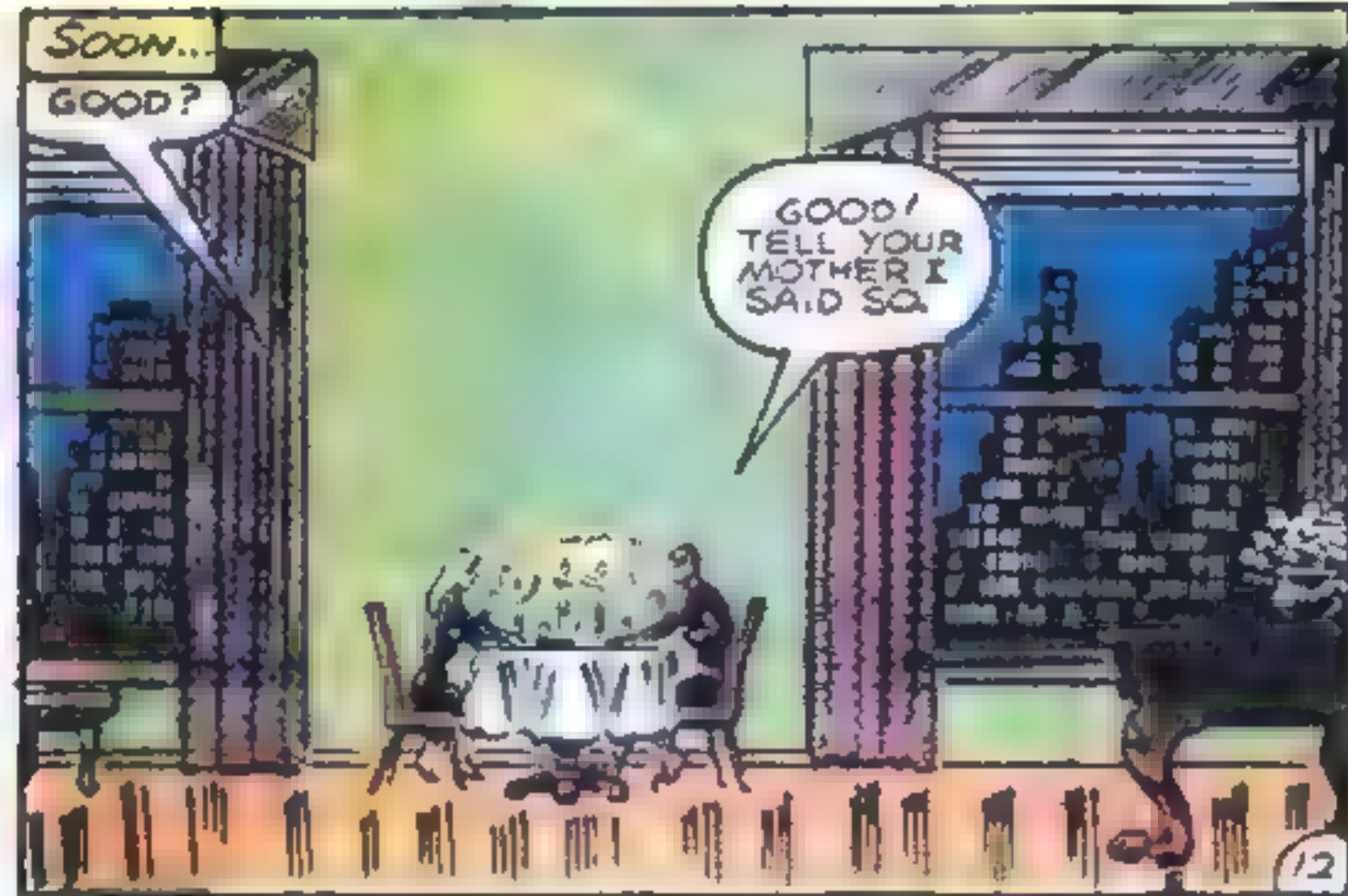


OKAY. I CAN WAIT.

CAT, I DO LOVE YOU!

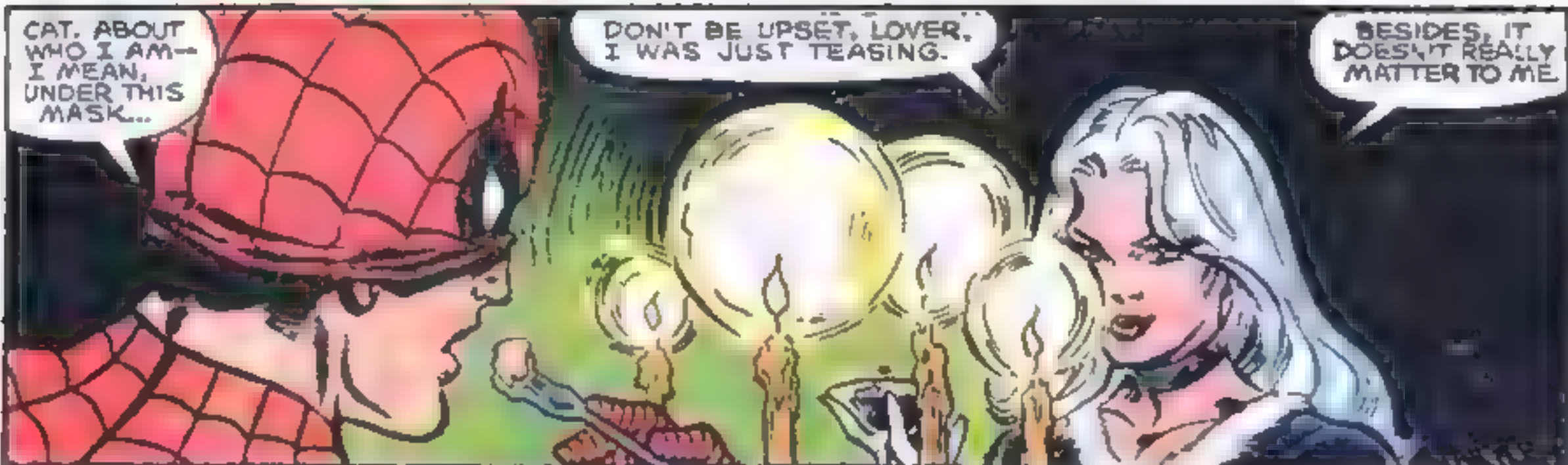
AND I LOVE YOU MY BEAUTIFUL MASKED STRANGER!

CARE FOR DINNER?



SOON... GOOD?

GOOD! TELL YOUR MOTHER I SAID SO.



CAT. ABOUT WHO I AM-- I MEAN, UNDER THIS MASK...

DON'T BE UPSET, LOVER. I WAS JUST TEASING.

BESIDES, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME.

IT'S THE MASK I LOVE-- THE COSTUME-- YOU AS THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, SWINGING THROUGH THE NIGHT!



YOU MAKE WHAT I DO SOUND SO... SO ROMANTIC CAT.



WHAT YOU DO... WHO YOU ARE-- IT IS ROMANTIC! YOUR BEING SPIDER-MAN EXCITES ME LIKE NOTHING HAS EVER EXCITED ME BEFORE!

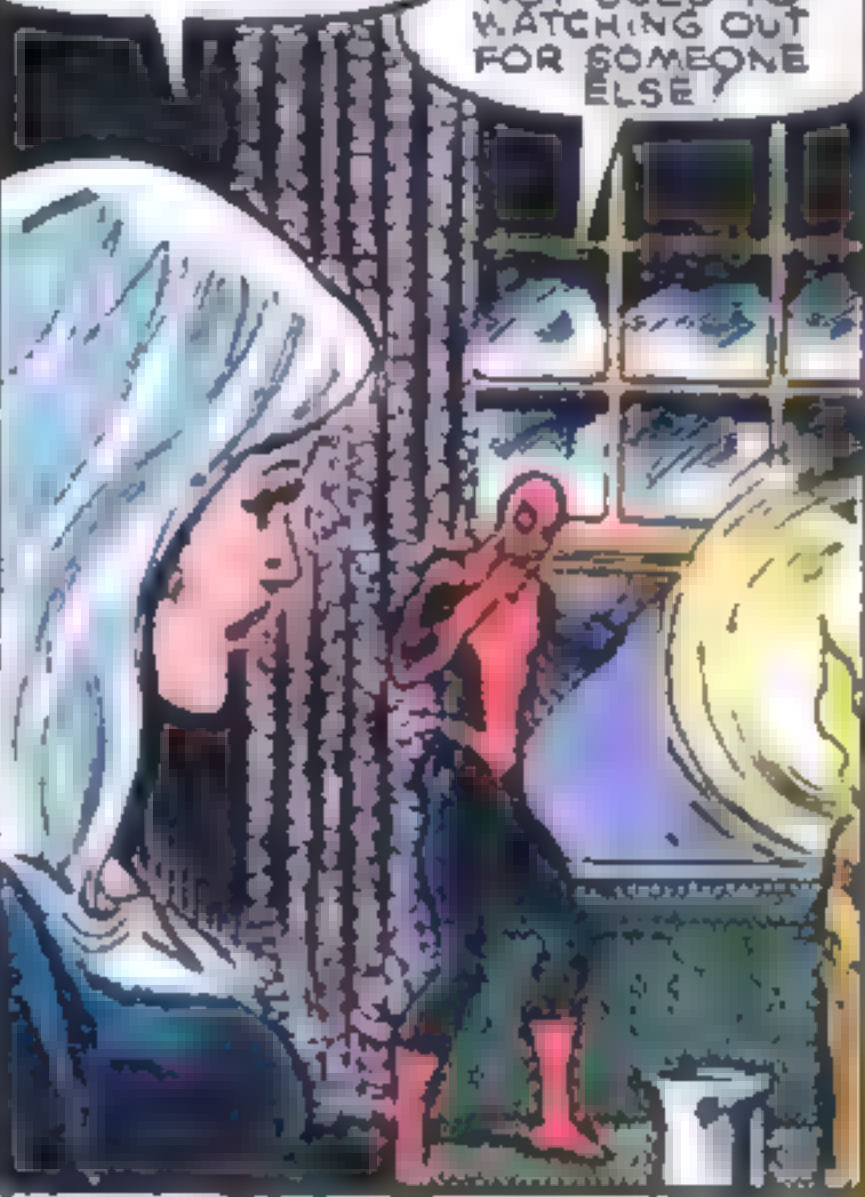
I LIKE BEING EXCITED, LOVER! I WANT TO SHARE YOUR NIGHTS WITH YOU!



CAT, WHAT YOU'RE ASKING-- IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE! THE LAST TIME YOU HELPED ME YOU ALMOST ENDED UP DEAD!



BUT YOU SAVED ME-- AND TOGETHER WE SAVED A CITY FROM DR. OCTOPUS!



I... CAN'T DENY THAT. IT'S JUST THAT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LONER-- NOT USED TO WATCHING OUT FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

I'M A BIG GIRL NOW, LOVER-- OR HADN'T YOU NOTICED? NOBODY HAS TO BABYSIT FOR THE BLACK CAT!



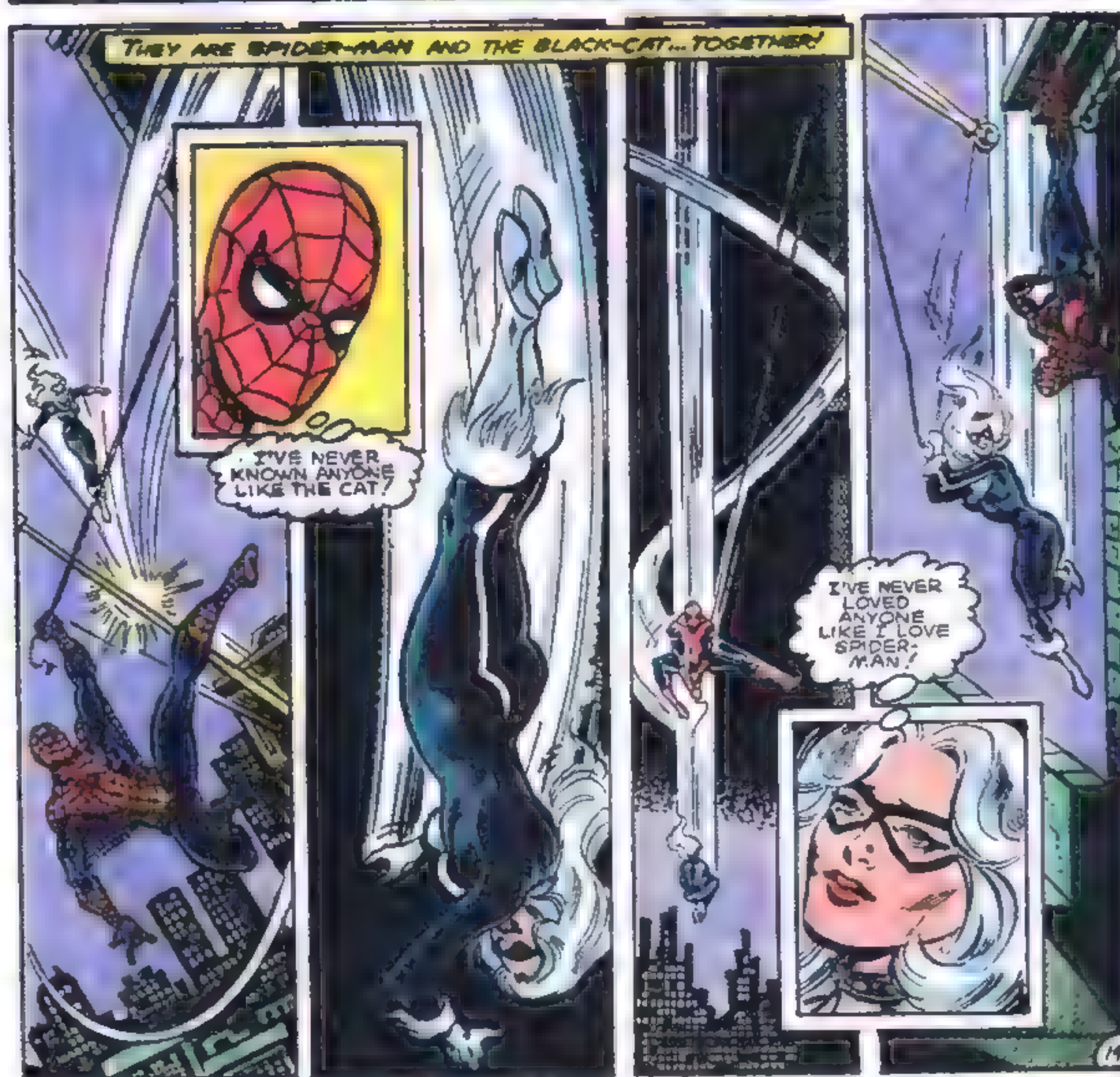
YEAH, WELL, I CAN THINK OF A LOT OF MEN WHO'D LIKE TO!



I DON'T WANT TO BE WITH A LOT OF MEN, SPIDER! I ONLY WANT TO BE WITH YOU!



THEY ARE SPIDER-MAN AND THE BLACK-CAT... TOGETHER!





WE WERE GREAT
JUST NOW, WEREN'T
WE, LOVER?

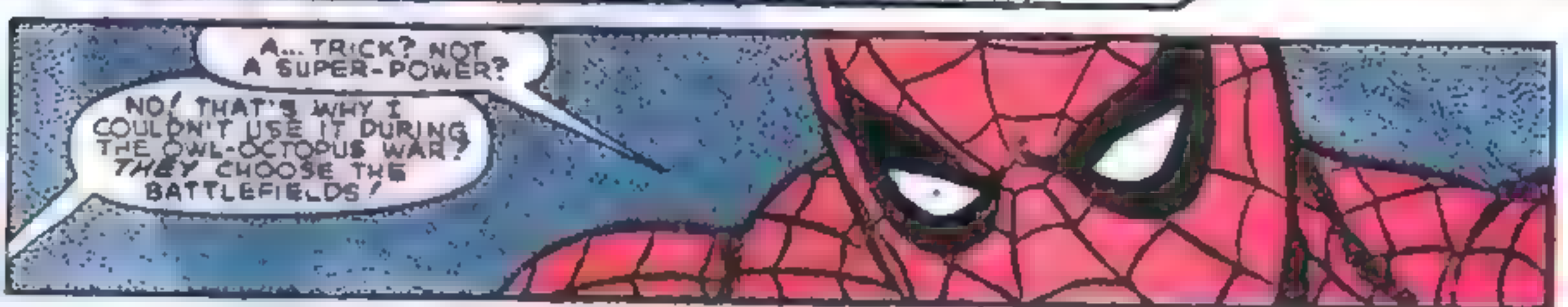
WE WERE...
GOOD.

CAT, WHEN WE FIRST
MET EACH OTHER,
IN ADDITION TO
BEING AN EXCELLENT
ACROBAT, YOU
ALSO POSSESSED
A STRANGE
"POWER."



POWER? OH!
YOU MEAN THE
FACT THAT "BAD
LUCK" ALWAYS
SEEMED TO BEFALL
WHOEVER WAS
AFTER ME?

THAT WAS ALL A TRICK, SPIDEY!
BEFORE A FIGHT I'D CAREFULLY
CHOOSE THE BATTLEFIELD, AND THEN
I'D RIG IT AGAINST WHOEVER'D
FOLLOW ME INTO IT!



A...TRICK? NOT
A SUPER-POWER?

NO! THAT'S WHY I
COULDN'T USE IT DURING
THE OWL-OCTOPUS WAR!
THEY CHOOSE THE
BATTLEFIELDS!



I SEE. C'MON, CAT—
LET'S GO HOME.

YOU'RE
UPSET, WHY?
WHAT DID
I SAY?!



I GUESS I'M JUST RE-
ALIZING HOW CRAZY THIS
IS—HOW VULNERABLE YOU
ARE! I'VE GOT SPIDER-
POWERS, CAT!

EVEN SO, THERE'VE
BEEN TIMES I'VE
NEARLY GONE DOWN
BEFORE ONE VILLAIN
OR ANOTHER!

I-I COULDN'T
BEAR IT IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENED
TO YOU!

BUT,
SPIDER...



I CAN'T LIVE
WITHOUT THE
EXCITEMENT,
THE ADVENTURE—
WITHOUT THE
NIGHT!

CAT, I...
WAIT!

THERE'S
DANGER!!!



--HURLED BY THAT
HELL-FIEND, THE
HOBGOBLIN!

WHAT-?!

PUMPKIN-
BOMBS-

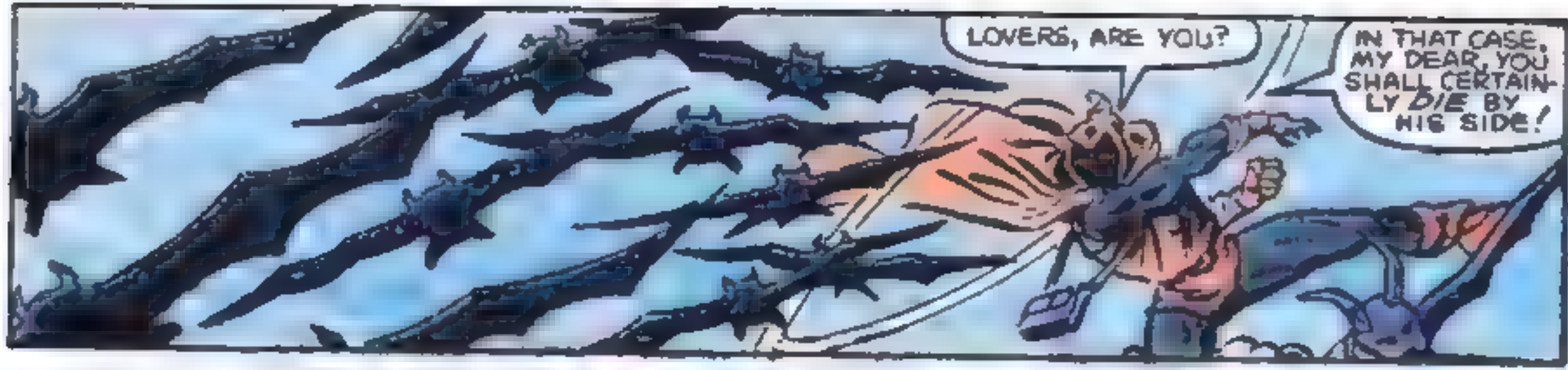
HOBGOBLIN?

A KILLER, CAT--MAYBE
DEADLIER THAN DOC OCK!

STAY BACK! I'LL
PROTECT YOU...!

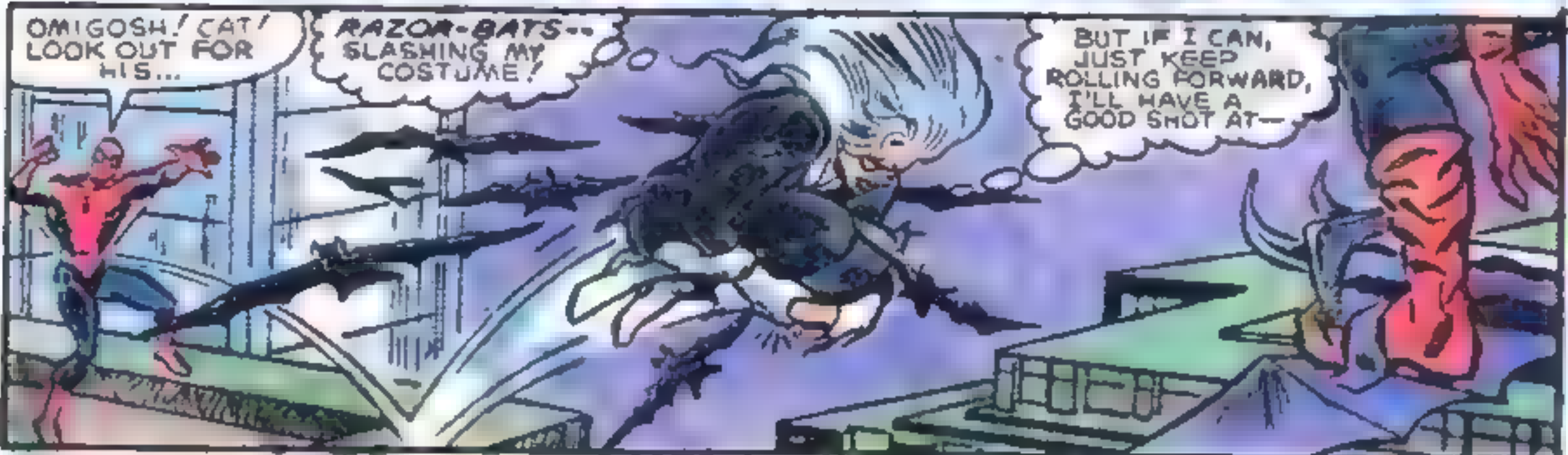
NO WAY,
LOVER!

I'M GOING
TO PROVE I'M
WORTHY TO FIGHT
BY YOUR SIDE!



LOVERS, ARE YOU?

IN THAT CASE, MY DEAR, YOU SHALL CERTAINLY DIE BY HIS SIDE!



OMIGOSH! CAT! LOOK OUT FOR HIS...

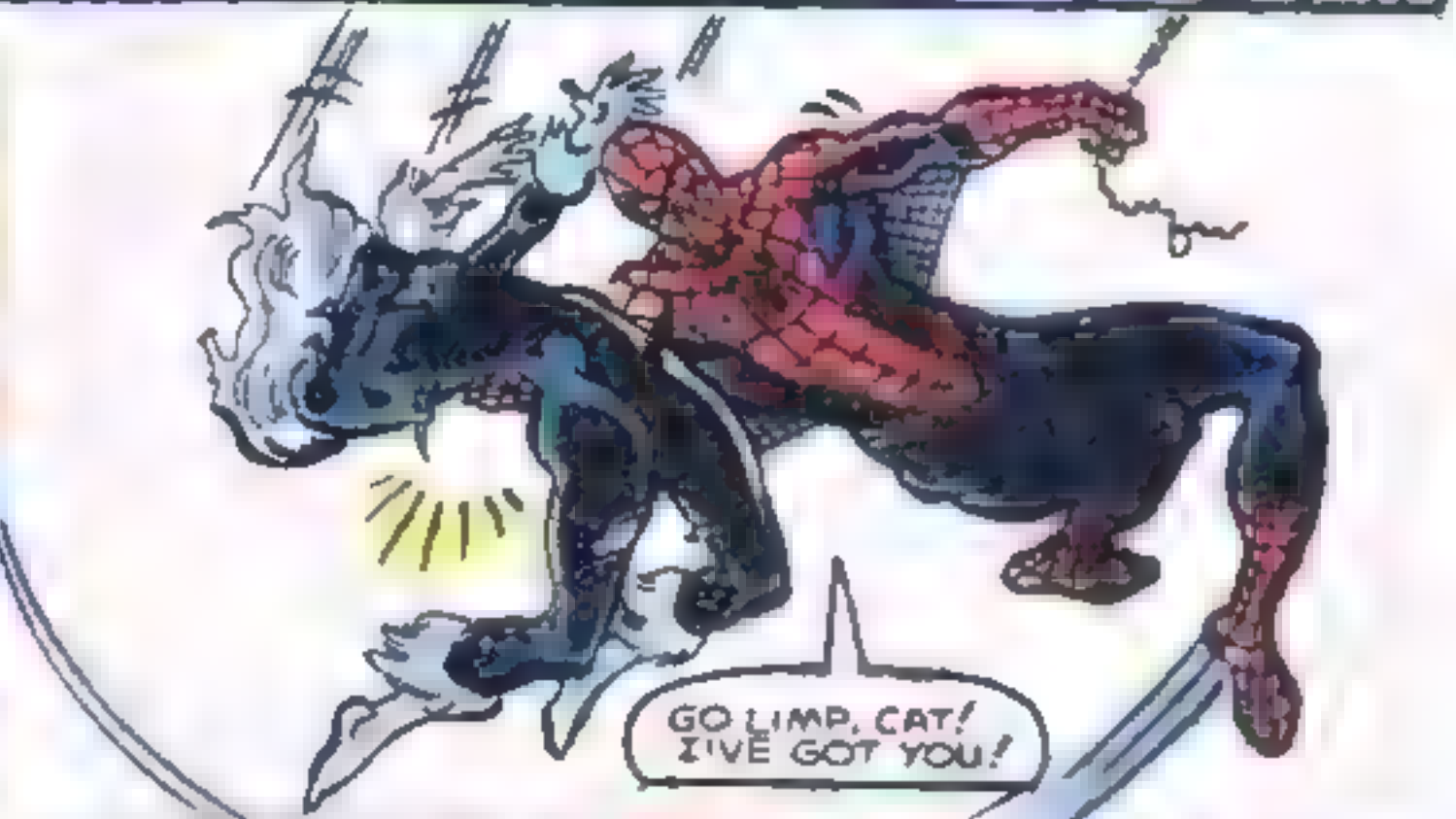
RAZOR-BATS-- SLASHING MY COSTUME!

BUT IF I CAN, JUST KEEP ROLLING FORWARD, I'LL HAVE A GOOD SHOT AT--

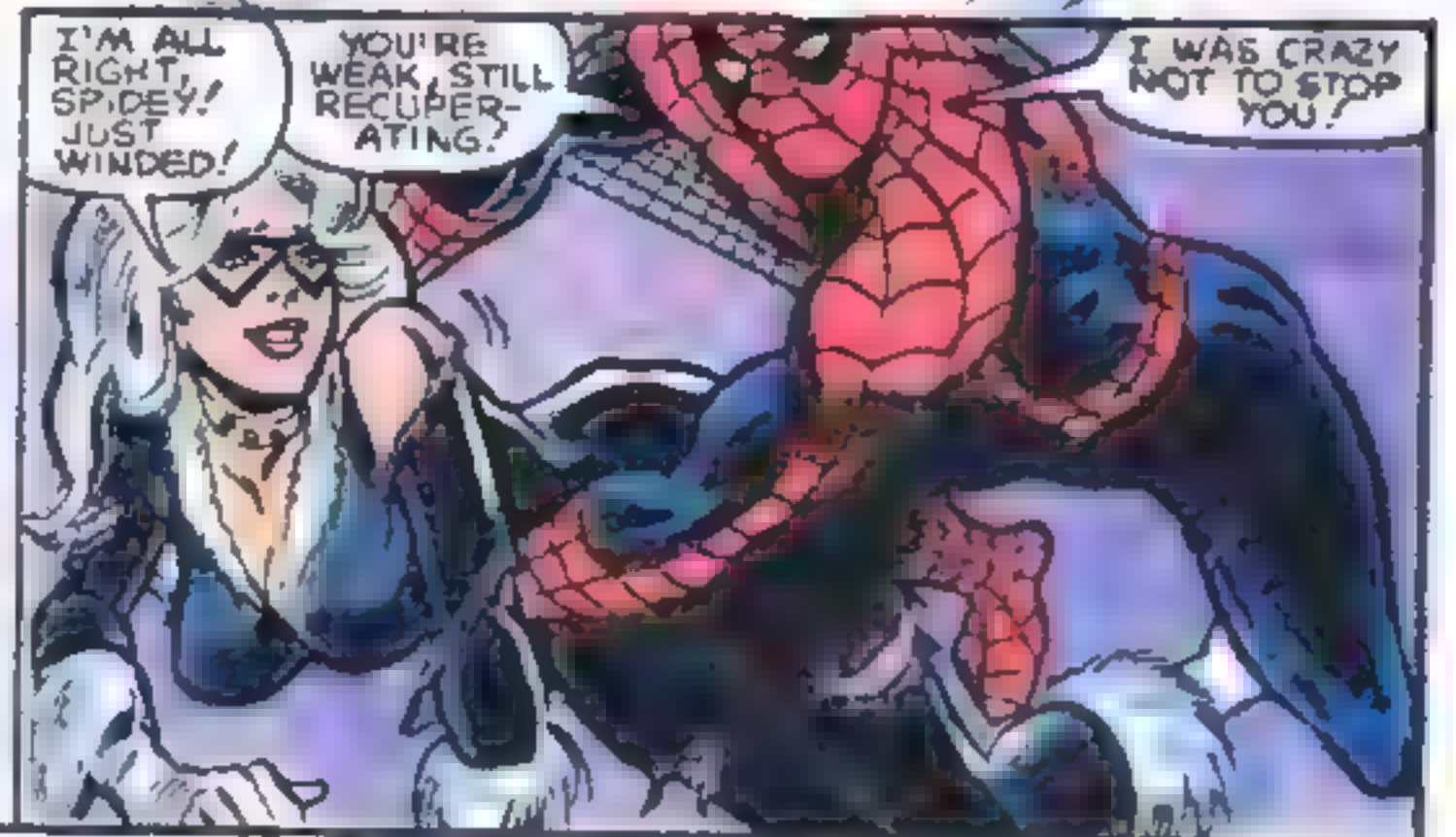


OHMM!

OH, DID MY LITTLE SPARKLES STOP YOU? I WOULD'VE EXPECTED SPIDER-MAN TO HAVE CHOSEN A MORE... RESOURCEFUL... LOVER!



GO LIMP, CAT! I'VE GOT YOU!



I'M ALL RIGHT, SPIDEY! JUST WINDED!

YOU'RE WEAK, STILL RECUPERATING!

I WAS CRAZY NOT TO STOP YOU!



REST NOW! HOBGOBLIN'S MINE!

THE GAS-GHOST DRIFTS LAZILY, LETHALLY DOWNWARD.

BUT THE WEB-SLINGER IS READY!

I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D SHOW THAT FIGHT-FACE OF YOURS AGAIN, NOBGOBLIN!

WHAT HAPPENED? COULDN'T FIND ANOTHER DOPE LIKE LEFTY DONOVAN TO DIE IN YOUR PLACE?

DONOVAN SERVED HIS PURPOSE. NOW I SHALL PERSONALLY DESTROY YOU AND YOUR LADY!

THINK AGAIN, KILLER--

ZWAP!

--WHILE YOU'RE CROOKING ON YOUR OWN GHOST-GAS! TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT YOU START TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!

TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT I MAKE YOU PAY!

SPIDER-MAN'S SPEED, SKILL AND AGILITY MAKE HIM PRACTICALLY UNBEATABLE! WERE I TO RELY ON MY GADGETRY ALONE IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE HE COULD DEFEAT ME!

BUT THE PURPOSE OF MY ATTACK THIS NIGHT IS TO TEST MY NEWLY-ACQUIRED SUPER-STRENGTH!

PROTECT YOUR LADY NOW, SPIDER-MAN!

HOLEE--!

KRATAK!

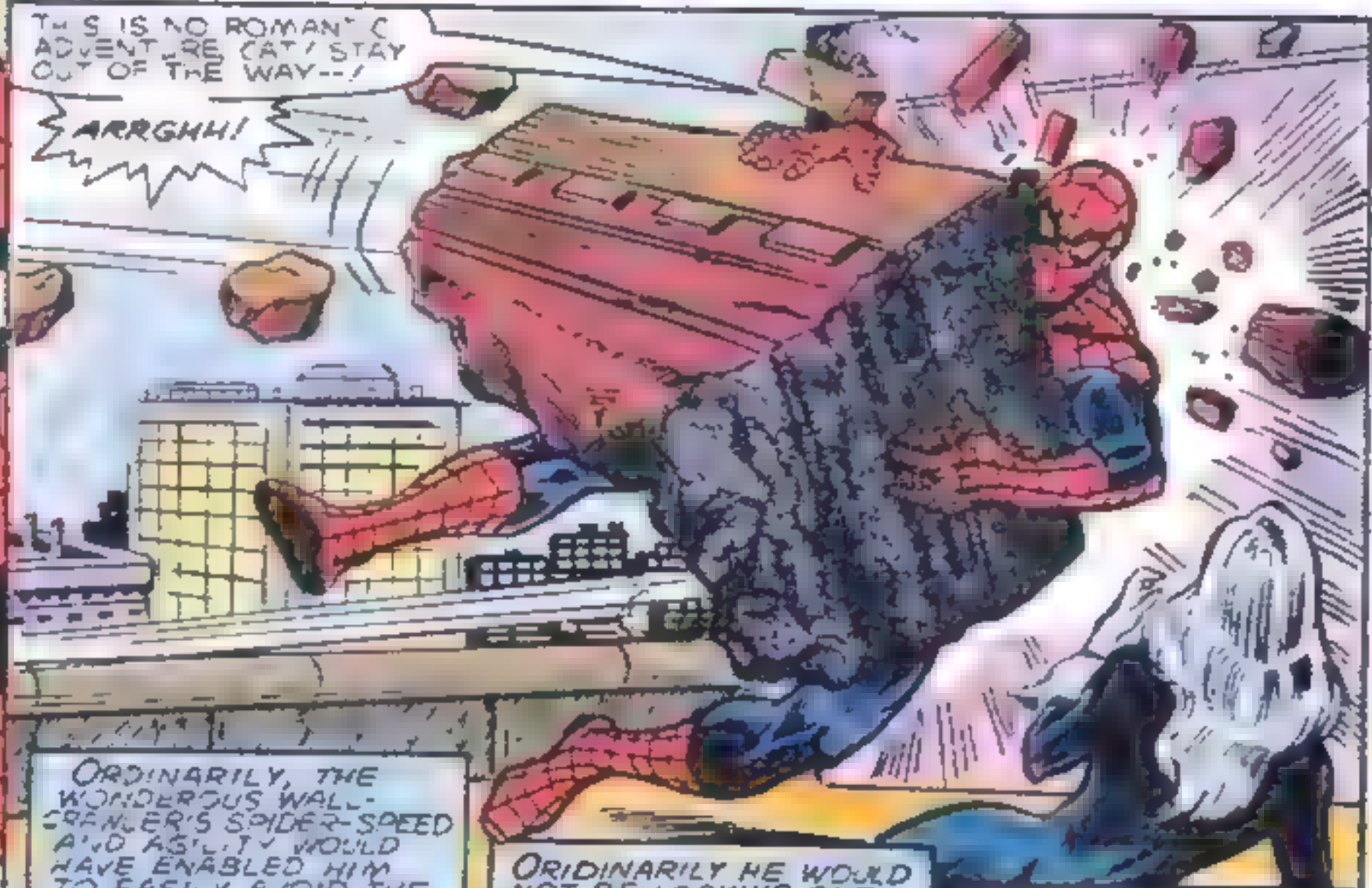
JOE COBURN RIPPED THE STONEWORK FROM THAT BUILDING WITH EASE, AND NOW HE'S HURLING IT AT US AS IF IT WERE LESS THAN PAPER MACHE

HE NEVER DISPLAYED THAT LEVEL OF POWER THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT!



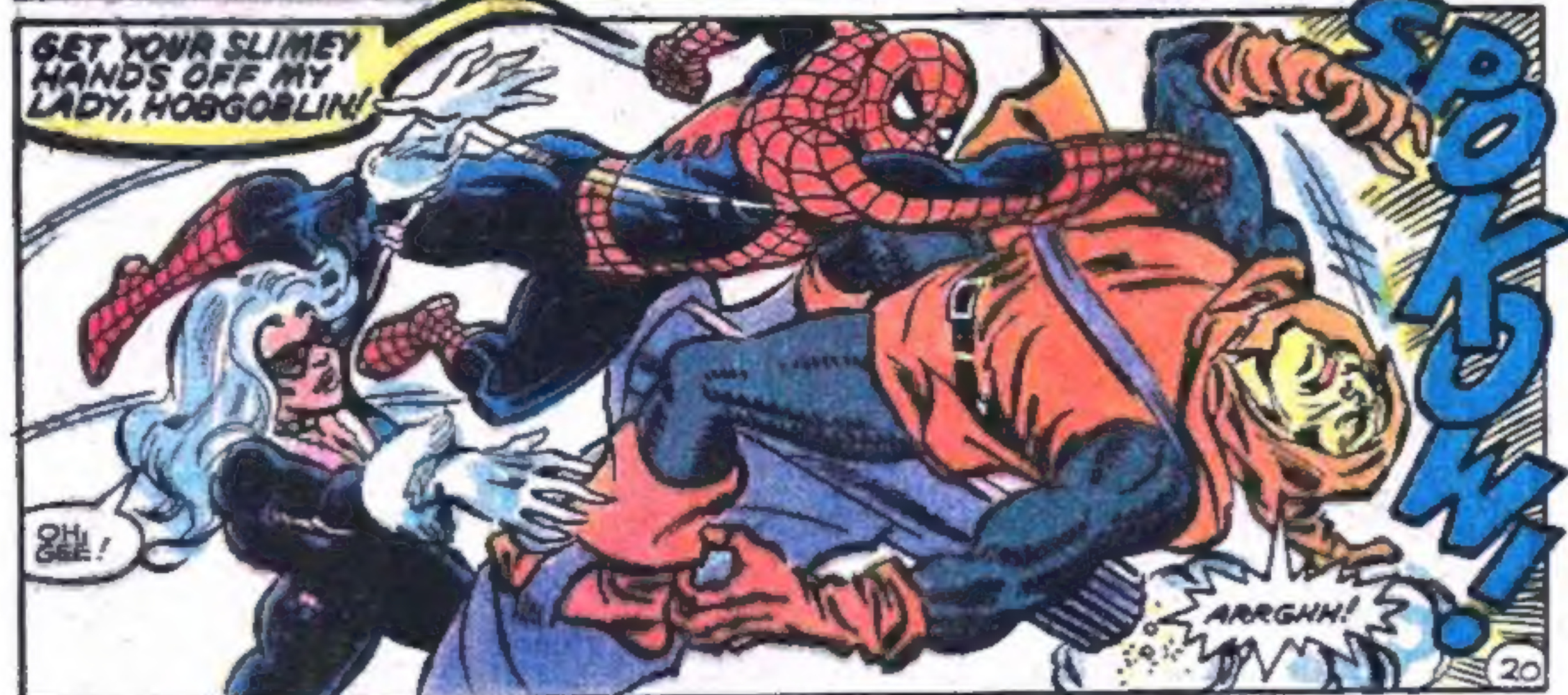
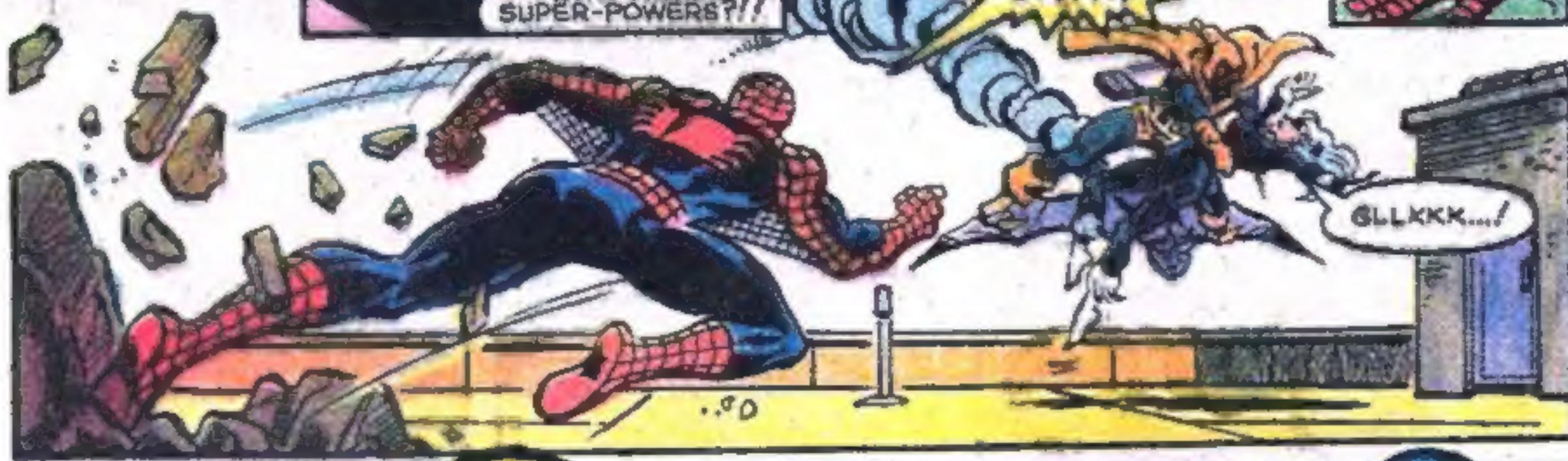
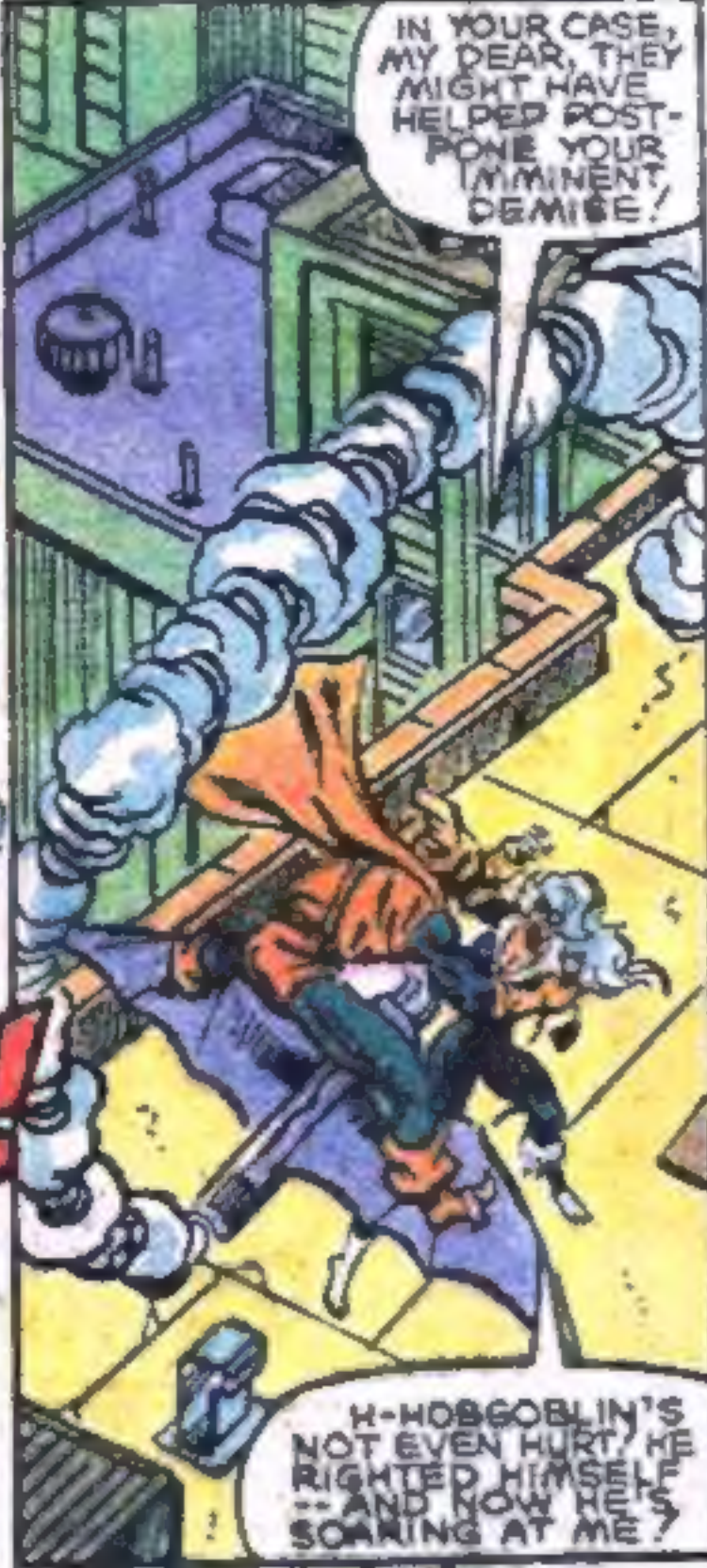
THIS IS NO ROMANTIC ADVENTURE, CAT! STAY OUT OF THE WAY--!

ARRGH!!



SOMEHOW WE'VE MADE MYSELF AS STRONG AS THE FIRST GREEN GOBLIN!!







NO! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! I HAVE INCREASED MY STRENGTH--!

YOU MAY HAVE GOTTEN STRONGER, 'GOBLIN-- BUT YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY SMARTER...

...OR YOU'D HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO COME AFTER SPIDER-MAN!

BLOW FOR BLOW, HE'S BEATING ME!

I WAS A FOOL TO RELY ON PHYSICAL STRENGTH WHEN I HAVE SO MANY OTHER MEANS OF CAUSING MAYHEM AT MY DISPOSAL!

AGGHH! FIREWORKS FROM YOUR FINGERTIPS--

--BLINDING ME!!!

LOVER!

I'LL BE OKAY IN A FEW SECONDS... BUT THOSE ARE A FEW SECONDS HOBGOBLIN WON'T ALLOW ME!



BUT I'M NOT AS HELPLESS AS I LOOK.

MY SPIDER-SENSE WILL ENABLE ME TO DODGE HIS ATTACK-- AND STRIKE BACK!

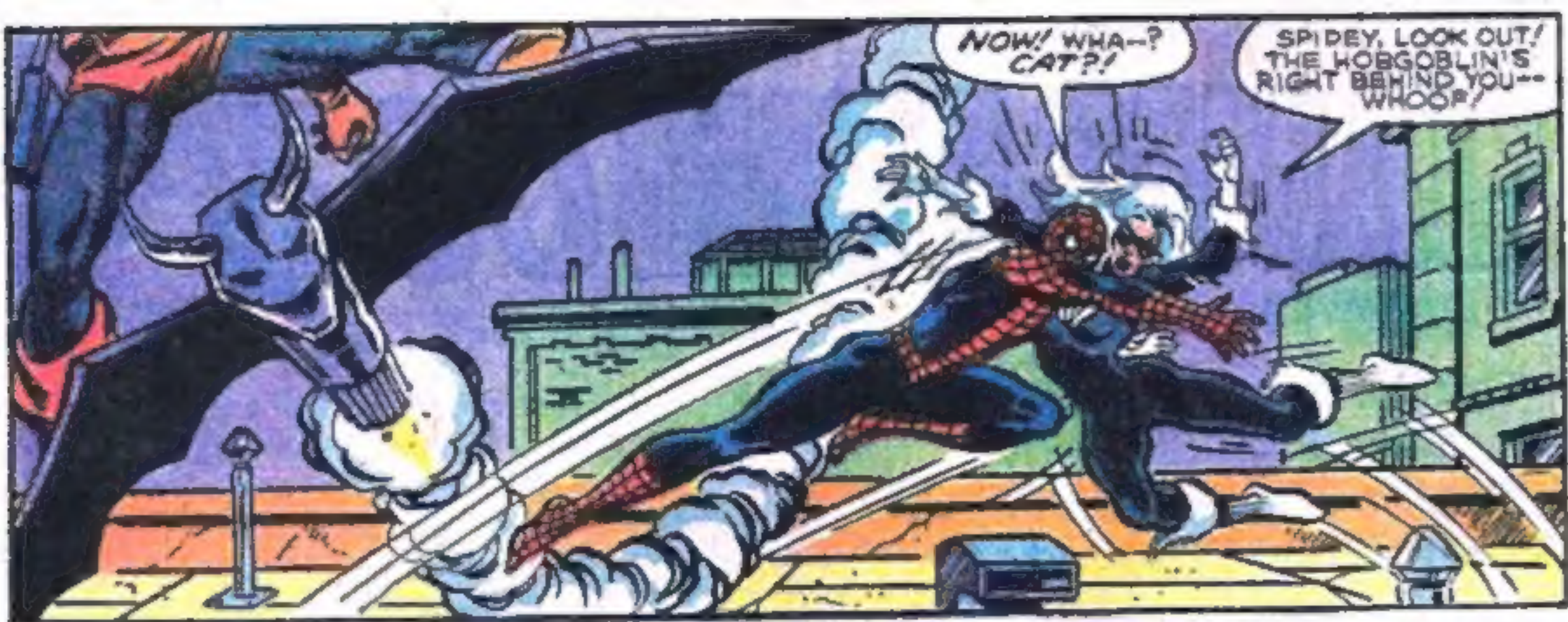
BUT UNAWARE OF HER LOVER'S PLAN... FEARING FOR HIS LIFE--



--THE BLACK CAT RUSHES TO HIS RESCUE!



THAT'S IT, HOBGOBLIN-- JUST A LITTLE CLOSER!



INSTEAD, HE'S GETTING AWAY!

NEXT ISN

THE RETURN OF THE FEARSOME FLY, IN A TALE WE CAN ONLY CALL...

BUGS!

YOU'LL HAVE TO READ IT TO SEE WHY!

Dear Dan,

In the past two or three years, I've gradually seen Jonah become more "human," especially with the introduction of Maria Madison. To see Jonah with a lady friend is like a breath of fresh air (though I wish they would get married - it seems like 98% of the significant figures in the Marvel universe are unmarried, and it doesn't require an expert to see how unrealistic that is). PPTSSM #80 gave more insight into the real Jonah than I have found in any issue since way back in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #10.

Randy Barlow
P.O. Box 606
Glimmer, TX 75844

Dear Danny,

After reading "I Cover the Waterfront!" in the current PETER PARKER, I couldn't help but recall a letter published over a decade ago in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #102. The thrust of that letter was that J. Jonah Jameson's character had been much maligned over the years and that a story was needed which would show Jameson as a man dedicated to meeting the responsibilities of his journalistic profession with integrity and courage - possibly a story in which he exposed crime and corruption in the city he loved, despite personal discomfort and danger. The response was a polite rejection of the idea: "We've a hunch that - whatever the hidden virtues of J. Jonah Jameson - the mass of Marveldom assembled would prefer to see them stay hidden like the submerged part of a very intriguing iceberg."

It was gratifying to see that someone finally agreed with that solitary voice from the past - and I'm glad I've stayed around long enough to see my request answered, after twelve years, in such stirring fashion. An excellent job by all concerned, and I thank you.

Gary L. McCullough
1600 Eastcrest Dr. Apt. LL
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Marvel,

PETER PARKER #80 was the boldest effort I have ever seen in my many years of comicdom. Also, it was the best single comic I've ever read. No matter how badly old J. Jonah Jameson treats Spidey after this issue, I totally respect him for his great belief in the press. The way the story was told was sheer genius. The whole Bullpen deserves a raise! (I read the letter column of THOR #333.)

Scott Schaier
1752 John St.
Merrick, NY 11566

Thanks for the kind words, folks. It seems as if everyone liked J.J.J.'s first solo outing. Well, almost everyone. Despite the overwhelmingly positive response, one negative letter did come in. Observe:

Dear Dan,

Being a hardcore Spidey fan, I can't help but say that PPTSSM #80 stunk! Not since issue #71 have I been more bored to death. I was expecting to see Spider-Man fighting against a super baddie, not J. Jonah Jameson in a rendition of the *Nightstalker*.

son in a rendition of the *Nightstalker*.

Peter Gertz
109A Bergen St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Thanks, Pete. For a second there it looked like we'd have to give everyone that raise! Whew!

But onto a slightly more controversial point: In PPTSSM #80, a letter was printed which wondered if Peter Parker wasn't becoming somewhat selfish and unlikeable in recent months. Your response to that letter was voluminous. Here's a sampling...

Dear Marvel:

Re: verde's letter and a call for comment in PPSSM #80.

Is Peter Parker likeable? No, not really. Peter is a complex, plausible character whom I've always found interesting, but he has never been what I would call a nice guy. Years ago, I found myself observing that if I knew Peter Parker, I wouldn't want him for my friend.

Scott Stevenson
562 Concord Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M6H 2R1, Canada

Dear Danny,

The conclusion of verde's letter suggests that Peter Parker "join the ranks of the grown super-heroes, like Captain America or Iron Man." This I found to be amusing. Captain America is an emotional wreck still searching for his own identity, and Iron Man is an active alcoholic. Personally, I think your friendly neighborhood Peter Parker is just fine the way he is.

Dejan Kovacevic
167 Penn Lear Dr.
Monroeville, PA 15146

Dear Marvel,

I'm glad you asked! Lately, Peter Parker has become a self-centered, thoughtless, self-righteous, whining jackass. I'm a counselor, and should know! He needs help! (Who's judgemental?)

Don Eisen
9730 Reseda Bl. #220
Northridge, CA 91324

Dear Marvel,

I loved J. Jonah Jameson's solo story, but that's not what this letter is about. Instead, I'd like to reply to the letter sent in by, uh, verde.

We have to take everything into consideration. Peter is a scholar, a photographer, a loving nephew, and a super hero. That alone would keep me from being the perfect human. Especially being a super hero. To be constantly in danger, always fighting, would scare me witless! It's not as easy as he makes it look. As Pete himself once said, "Jokes just help me not to be scared."

Also, think how unstable Peter's life is. He has to support himself and help Aunt May. Does he have a wife to comfort him when things get rough? I mean, Cap has Bernie, and Tony Stark can take his pick. Granted, Spidey has the Black Cat, but they haven't really had a chance to develop their relationship yet.

Do you want a selfless act? Just look at last issue! Spider-Man saved Doctor Octopus. You can say, "Oh, he only did that to save his image." But he didn't have to! No one was around. He could have told Jean DeWolff that it was too late to save him, and she'd probably have been glad Ock was dead.

Has Spidey visited his friends? Check out the 1982 SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. True, Peter does get rude with the gang at ESU, but so would I if my girlfriend were hospitalized or I was turning into a monster or something equally horrible was happening in my life.

You think Spidey saves all those people for kicks? I can think of a lot of other things he could do for thrills that would benefit no one - and perhaps even endanger others!

However, Pete isn't the best he could be. Sometimes he seems so... unreal. Maybe a little more personality would help.

Greg Howard
3101 Deerwood Dr.
Ukiah, CA 95482

MORE PERSONALITY!!??!! Looking over the above letters, it seems to us that Peter's already got more personality than he - or anyone else for that matter - know's what to do with! He is an unusual life with unusual problems. Like all of us, he never stops trying to figure out and do what's right. Hope you'll all be around while he sorts things out.

Dear Marvel,

About the cover on PPTSSM #80: how in the heck is J.J.J. gonna kiss Maria Madison with a cigar in his mouth?

Robb Zelony, John Muenning,
and Dan Hassler
Chicago, IL

Carefully, guys. Very, very carefully.

NEXT MONTH: Next month, I'll be away at comics conventions, so my assistant, Bob DeNatale, will be taking care of things. Bob's just gonna make sure things roll along smoothly, as usual. I've already approved Bill's plot for the story, and I can tell you it's going to be a deeply moving yet wildly exciting tale of the return of the Fly, who is mad with hate for Spider-Man and J. Jonah Jameson... and afflicted with a very strange malady. "Bugs" also features the continuing saga of Spidey's romance with the Black Cat. So I have lots of faith in the story. I know it's great. But since Al Milgrom's gonna be doing the convention circuit, too, he won't have time to draw issue #86, so Bob'll have to recruit a special guest-artist. But I've got faith in DeNatale. He's got good taste. Whoever he gets will be someone very good. I'm sure of that. See you when I get back, folks. Bye.

Danny Fingeroth

(Just time for a quick plug! I've got FRED HEMBECK lined up to draw next issue! If you know who he is, wait'll you see his stuff! If you don't know his work, how can you even contemplate missing next issue? He's gonna make me a star! Be here.

Bob D.)